

# Shobnall Primary School



1<sup>st</sup> December 2016

Dear Parents

**Christmas is fast approaching and we are all looking forward to a busy and enjoyable run-up to the festive season. We would especially like to thank all parents and children for the hard work and support given to the school throughout the past year – it is much appreciated.**

During this week the Learning Support Assistants will be putting up our decorations and nativity scene. We hope you can call into the reception area to see the wonderful efforts they make on behalf of the children in ensuring that Christmas is truly a special time.

## **Christmas Performances for Parents**

These are summarised as follows:

Date	Time	Year Group(s)
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2016	9.30 a.m.	Year 3
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	9.30 a.m.	Year 1 and Year 2
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	1.30 p.m. & 6 p.m.	Years 4, 5 and 6
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	9.30 a.m.	Year 1 and Year 2
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	9.30 a.m.	Nursery and Reception
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	9.30 a.m.	Nursery and Reception

In order that we comply with the fire regulations we can only allocate a specific number of seats. In order to avoid disappointment parents are asked to please request seats as soon as possible after letters have been sent home from your child's class teacher.

## **Additional Christmas Diary Dates**

Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2016	Christmas Fair 3.30 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Christingle Assembly
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Visit to Derby Theatre for Pantomime
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Christmas Lunch
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Last Day of Term

## **Photography/Video of Performances**

We try to be as accommodating and as fair as we possibly can. As teachers and parents we realise that parents do like to take photographs and videos of their child during performances as a personal memento. However, this can only be allowed if parents follow the strict guidelines which have been agreed by our school community i.e.

- Photographs must not appear on the internet or social websites
- Photographs/videos are used as a personal memento only and cannot be reproduced or shared elsewhere publicly.
- Parents wishing to take videos/photographs are asked to stand in a position which does not detract from the children's performances.



Letters to Parents Wholeschool 2016-2017/December/Christmas Arrangements for December 2016

Shobnall Road, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire. DE14 2BB Telephone: (01283) 239100 Fax: (01283) 239105

E-mail: [office@shobnall.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@shobnall.staffs.sch.uk)

### Come As You Please Day! – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December is a non-uniform day in support of the Christmas Fare. The PFA would be really grateful if the Infant Children could bring an item of chocolate and the Junior Children bring a bottle to school on Friday morning. Thank you in anticipation of your much valued support. Please can I also politely remind you that our wonderful PFA would still greatly appreciate: cakes, books, games, puzzles, toys etc. Raffle tickets and Santa slots are still available.

### Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumper Day - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016

This is always a fun occasion when staff serve the children as they “tuck” into their Christmas dinner. This year Christmas dinner will be on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2016**. Christmas dinner details will be sent out on a separate letter. As a thank you for supporting the many school events which have taken place during this busy Autumn Term we would like to invite all children to wear a Christmas jumper or ‘come as you please’ on Christmas dinner day - for which, as a mark of our appreciation, there will be no charge.

### Christmas Post Box

It is a tradition in the school that when the children send their Christmas Cards to each other, they post them in the school post box. Please remind the children to write their friend’s name and year group on the envelope, so that children delivering the post can get them to the correct classrooms and ensure that we do not have any undelivered mail. The post box can be found in the main school entrance area, alongside the Holy Family/Nativity.

### Christingle Assembly

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 will be our annual Christingle Assembly. If you would like to send your child with a Christingle (**instructions attached**), please ensure that it arrives in school on the Monday morning. ***Please note that due to allergies, instead of using nuts to decorate the cocktail sticks, may we please ask that parents use alternatives such as sweets and dried fruit.***

**At the end of the assembly the children will be invited to donate their coins to our designated charity. This year we have chosen to support St. Giles Hospice.** The children’s and parents’ generosity in supporting charitable causes is commendable. Thank you all very much for your continued support.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or queries.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Cruise  
Headteacher



St. Thomas was made the patron saint of old people – and of children too. In days gone by, old and young were allowed to go round collecting money on 21<sup>st</sup> December, which is St. Thomas' Day, to buy food for their Christmas dinners. The custom was called a-Thomasing, or else a-mumping or a-gooding!

The children would give a sprig of holly or mistletoe to anyone who put money in their collecting box. St. Thomas' Day was often a school holiday, but if they did have to go to school, children made it a day for tricks against the teacher. Sometimes they would lock him out of school and get up to all kinds of fun and games inside on their own.

**Over Two hundred years ago.** In 1785, Parson James Woodforde wrote in his diary: "This being St. Thomas' Day, had a great many poor people of the Parish to visit me, I gave to each of them that came, sixpence"

**Over 100 years ago,** in 1886, the people of Brighton, on the south coast of England, collected money for the old people of the town and held a special ceremony in the police court to distribute it.

A report said "The oldest of them all, the lady of 96, came into the court despite the sharpness of the wind and the frozen roads".

Christmas is still the time to remember and help the very old and the very young. Here are some suggestions:

*Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat,  
Please to put a penny in the old man's hat,  
If you haven't got a ha'penny a farthing will do,  
If you haven't got a ha'penny a farthing will do,  
If you haven't got a farthing – God bless you!*

- ❖ Visit anyone elderly or housebound who may need shopping done for them before Christmas.
- ❖ Invite someone who has no family near to share your family Christmas meal.
- ❖ Give to any central collection of timed foods set up by local social services or charities.
- ❖ Contribute toys, books or money at a special church service.



#### THE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

One way to help families with special needs is to take part in a Christingle Service. The ceremony is very old. No-one knows just how far back it goes. There are records of an ancient Welsh 'calenig' service, and the Moravian

Church has held Christingle services for over two hundred years, though they do not believe that the custom began with them. About fifteen years ago, John Penson, of the Church of England's Children's Society in Britain, revived the custom and in 1982 over a thousand services were held in many countries. More than \$100,000 was collected to help handicapped children, those without homes, and families in need. Christingle means Christ-Light, and the service is a celebration of the coming of Christ, the Light, into the world. At the service, gifts of money, collected beforehand are presented and, in turn, Christingles are received. When all the Christingles have been given out, carols are sung by the candlelight.

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#### MAKING A CHRISTINGLE

You will need:

- ❖ An orange
- ❖ A candle
- ❖ A red band
- ❖ Four cocktail sticks
- ❖ Nuts and fruit or sweets
- ❖ The orange represents the World.
- ❖ The Red Ribbon or band around it represents the blood of Jesus.
- ❖ Dolly mixtures or dried fruits skewered on cocktail sticks pushed into the orange, representing the fruits of the earth and the four seasons.
- ❖ A lit candle pushed into the centre of the orange, representing Jesus Christ as the light of the world.



#### MAKING A CHRISTINGLE

1. Carefully make a hole for the candle in the top of the orange.
2. Fasten a band of red around the middle of the orange (flame proof crepe paper may be used or red adhesive tape which is sold in cycle shops or ribbon).
3. Place a square of aluminium foil, about 20cm square, round the bottom of the candle. This acts as a shield and catches the grease and candle wax.
4. Put the candle firmly into the hole making sure it is kept upright.
5. Add four cocktail sticks (goose quills were used in old times) on which you have put fruits, such as raisins, glace cherries and nuts (monkey nuts in their shells are easy to pierce) or sweets such as dolly mixtures.

*Why not colour this Christingle in after you've made yours*

