



NEWS UPDATE – DECEMBER 2020

MRS FOULGER WRITES...

Christmas is going to look different this year. For many families and individuals, very different. I am sure, like me, many of you usually meet up with family and friends, squeezing and squashing round tables laden with the sort of food we eat but once a year. What a year. So much has changed and so much has quickly become normal. New words have entered our language and are now used regularly in everyday conversation. As far as I knew at the start of the year, 'Zoom' was an 80's song title, tiers referred to wedding cakes and furlough was an ancient term used to describe the rest weeks missionaries had out of the jungle! It has been a year of uncertainty, a time like no other, our lives have been changed in so many ways.



That got me thinking of the first Christmas. That too was a time of uncertainty. Mary and Joseph, a young couple set to get married and settle down to an ordinary life together had their life changed by a visit from an angel. Think back to when our first lockdown was announced, we were thrown into confusion, would life ever be the same again? Possibly some of the same concerns and questions that Mary and Joseph felt and asked. But of course, they carried on and did what they needed to do. Just as we did.

But Jesus being born brought hope, he came to be the light of the world. We enjoyed hearing recently how some of our families celebrated Divali, the Hindu festival of light. Our streets and houses are full of twinkly lights, they cheer us up, they help make us feel happy. Light brightens up the dark places.

I wonder if this Christmas we can be the ones who bring hope and light to others?

Together, we've already started. Every item you brought in for our reverse advent calendar will bring light and happiness into many local homes as they are shared around. Thank you.

That first Christmas was special but special in its simplicity. Jesus was not born in a palace but in a simple stable.

This Christmas will be different and maybe things will be simpler, stripped back to what is really important to us. However, in a time of uncertainty, one thing remains the same.

The message of Christmas has not changed. We will still remember that baby Jesus, born in a stable to bring light and hope to all.

On behalf of all the staff, I wish you all the very best of times this Christmas.

Keep safe, keep well and keep bringing and being the light to others.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

THANK YOU ALL...

Our charity monitors, Flo and Iris, spent many happy break times sorting and packing up all the gifts, treats and food items you so kindly donated in response to our 'reverse advent calendar' initiative. We managed to fill two large cars with all the bags and boxes for the first visit to The Vine foodbank and this has since been followed up by two further trips! Incredible! We have really felt the need to help families who are struggling more than ever this year and your generosity has been truly heartfelt. You have dug deep. I am aware that many of you as families have discussed at home the reasons for giving and the issues surrounding foodbanks and supporting others; such strong and important messages for our children.



HEAD TEACHER AWARDS:

The following pupils have recently received awards, once again for a variety of diverse reasons, including success in a music exam, writing letters to Santa, creative story writing, excellent handwriting and consistent hard work!

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
<i>Penelope S</i>	<i>Chidera N</i>	<i>Mia J</i>	<i>Leo O</i>	<i>Ava C</i>	<i>Nalani G</i>
<i>Amelie B</i>	<i>Charlotte E</i>	<i>Will B</i>	<i>Ellie W</i>		<i>Connie A</i>
<i>Alev C</i>	<i>Eleanor I</i>		<i>Leo A</i>		<i>George B</i>
			<i>Zac H</i>		<i>Franklin D</i>
			<i>James Mc</i>		<i>Florence M</i>
			<i>George C</i>		<i>Evie N</i>

Keep working hard everyone. Next time, it could be you!

UNIFORM REMINDERS:

A gentle reminder that pupils should arrive at school each morning looking smart in their blazer or school coat and wearing their school shoes, including days when they wear games kit. Please also ensure that only school hats, gloves and scarves are worn as we have noticed a variety of other colours and styles being worn. All these items are available through our uniform supplier, Graduates.

Whilst we have windows and doors open in classrooms to maintain air flow, the children are permitted to wear their coats if they feel cold. When going outside, please ensure they have an old coat and some tracksuit trousers to go over their uniform.

CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION:

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
1st	<i>Sophia</i>	<i>Chidera</i>	<i>Louis</i>
2nd	<i>Roma</i>	<i>Alisa</i>	<i>Mabel</i>
3rd	<i>Christine</i>	<i>Edie</i>	<i>Leonardo</i>

	YEAR 4S	YEAR 4P	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
1st	<i>Thor</i>	<i>Isabella</i>	<i>Henry T</i>	<i>George</i>
2nd	<i>Megan</i>	<i>Sofia</i>	<i>Anoushka</i>	<i>Florence</i>
3rd	<i>Jayveer</i>	<i>Evan</i>	<i>Kieran</i>	<i>James C</i>

HANDWRITING COMPETITION:

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
1st	<i>Penelope</i>	<i>Naima</i>	<i>Rory</i>
2nd	<i>Charlotte</i>	<i>Emily</i>	<i>Guhan</i>
3rd	<i>Alexander</i>	<i>Felix</i>	<i>Tanya</i>

	YEAR 4S	YEAR 4P	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
1st	<i>Ellie</i>	<i>Leo A</i>	<i>Ava</i>	<i>Phoenix</i>
2nd	<i>George</i>	<i>Zac</i>	<i>Tayla</i>	<i>Jessica C</i>
3rd	<i>Kairav</i>	<i>Sami</i>	<i>Orlando</i>	<i>Ashley</i>

RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) CONSULTATION:

You may remember being asked to complete a survey recently to gauge your opinion as well as giving you the opportunity to comment and have your say on the school's plans for teaching these sensitive topics throughout the school. Mrs McHugh was delighted with the number of responses received; a high percentage of parents from across all year groups replied which should, we feel, help give us a clear direction in which to move forward. Over the coming weeks, the comments will be looked at in detail and addressed as necessary. We hope to provide an update in the New Year.

R.I.O.T (Running is our therapy)

The response and enthusiasm for this initiative has continued throughout the term, despite some inclement weather conditions and the added pressures of play rehearsals! It has been so important for all the children to get outside as much as possible and, we believe the regular running has boosted their fitness and their mental well-being, in addition to the known benefits of being out in the fresh air.

Between them, the pupils have run a total of 1,906 kms – nearly the distance from here to the Coliseum in Rome!



HOUSE RESULTS:
1st SCHOVE- 494 kms
2ND – OAK 481 kms
3RD – JUSTIN and WAGSTAFF
465.5 kms



BEBRAS COMPUTING CHALLENGE:

Well done to everyone who took part and thanks to Mrs Campbell for arranging the challenge.

Here is a list of this year's top performers and award winners:

BEST IN SCHOOL

Juniors (Year 6)	Castors (Years 4/5)	Kits (Years 2/3)
<i>Jessica C</i>	<i>Mya B</i>	<i>Guhan K</i>
	<i>Kayla O</i>	<i>Louis B</i>
	<i>Ava C</i>	
	<i>Anoushka G</i>	

DISTINCTIONS/MERITS



Year 6 Distinction	Year 5 Distinction	Year 4 Distinction	Year 3 Distinction	Year 2 Merit
<i>George B</i>	<i>Matthew T</i>	<i>Florence I</i>	<i>Leonardo P</i>	<i>Scarlett W</i>
<i>Evie N</i>	<i>Henry T</i>	<i>Harriet H</i>	<i>Danique R</i>	<i>Chidera N</i>
<i>Lucy E</i>	<i>Nathaniel L</i>	<i>Srisakthi K</i>	<i>Mia J</i>	<i>Wilfred A</i>
<i>Ashley D</i>	<i>Rayanna L</i>		<i>Rory T</i>	<i>Alisa A</i>
<i>Cole H</i>	<i>Harry C</i>		<i>Victoria L</i>	<i>Annabelle S</i>
<i>George B</i>	<i>Kieran M</i>		<i>Thomas S</i>	<i>Charlotte E</i>

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS/CAROL SERVICE:

By the time you read this, I'm sure many of you will already have enjoyed watching your child's class production. The staff have worked incredibly hard to produce and film these 'on the hoof' performances, learning many new skills as they went along. The children all loved doing them, learning the lines and songs with apparent ease and filming in outside locations! The main point of putting together all these nativities and plays was to help give the children something to focus on when so many normal events and occasions could not take place. However, we hope they have also entertained you and given you an insight into what the classes have been up to alongside their usual lessons.

The Year 6 Carol Service will soon be available for everyone to watch on TEAMS.

Please remember that the videos are for family sharing only – NO DOWNLOADING!

PARENT VOICE MEETING:

On the last Friday of November, Mrs Handy and Mrs Foulger hosted our first virtual Parent Voice Meeting. These meetings, normally held in school, give parents a chance to discuss, suggest ideas and concerns and listen to the views and thoughts of others in a relaxed way.

The majority of the points raised were very positive, with the parents present very keen to congratulate the school and the staff for the effort, care and dedication in getting everyone back to school in a safe and happy way.

The success of the summer Rainbow Club was highly praised and we were able to confirm that the model of offering more weeks' cover would be continued. The idea of having a theme for each week also met with approval. Mrs Foulger picked up on the added benefit for children who attend Rainbow Club; that pupils of all ages interact in such a positive way and special friendships are formed as a result. This gives the older ones the opportunity to develop leadership skills whilst the younger children learn from great role models.

One parent requested that we film the classrooms in order to show the learning environment for each year group. In view of the fact that parents are not currently allowed into school we are happy to do this.

We had an interesting discussion on the topic of diversity and inclusion. Reception recently 'celebrated' Divali with pupils dressing in their traditional costumes and showing how they celebrate this important festival with their families. It was generally felt that we have a number of cultures and faiths represented within our school and it would be great to use this rich resource as much as possible. Mrs Foulger would love to hear from any parents who would be happy to share their traditions and festivals that are celebrated by any of our pupils and families.

The general consensus was that our diversity is definitely a strength of our St David's community!

HOUSE STARS:

The children are awarded stars throughout the week, sometimes for their work in class but also for their overall conduct around school, or for doing something exceptional outside of school.

Their individual totals are added up and put into their house total.

Autumn Term – Final Results

WAGSTAFF	OAK	SCHOVE	JUSTIN
2831	2869	2801	2827

**WELL
DONE**



**OAK
HOUSE**

IMPORTANT!

Please continue to message the school office immediately if your child displays Covid symptoms or if any member of your household has a positive test result for Coronavirus. If travelling abroad, please follow Government advice concerning the correct period of self-isolation on your return and notify the school that your child has been abroad.

This will enable us to maintain our records and get in touch with any close contacts in accordance with our Risk Assessment and the latest Government guidance.

CHARITY SLEEP POD

YEAR 5 helped construct a sleep pod as part of a charity initiative to help people sleeping on the streets this winter keep a little warmer and provide a small amount of comfort.

Year 5 pupils had been thinking about how lucky they are to have warm and comfortable houses and beds to sleep in. They hope their pod will bring some comfort and protection for someone in need but did not think they would want to swap places...



ATOM LEARNING:

Something new! Our Prep children all now have log-ins for another different online platform. Called Atom Learning, it covers English, Maths, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning. Already successfully used by the top classes, it is an excellent way of preparing for 11+ examinations.

The response from children in class has been extremely positive!



**Year 4 pupils exploring
Atom Learning**

Wishford have recently provided us with 6 new 'Surface Go 2' tablets. Mrs Campbell is looking forward to using them in January and says they are a wonderful boost to our computing resources.



THANK YOU - PTA!

The PTA team have been carrying on as best they can, despite not being able to plan and arrange the usual events we all enjoy throughout the year. However, the raffle went ahead as usual – thanks to all of you who bought tickets. The winners, drawn in school last week, are listed below.

Adult Raffle:

Large Hamper – Bennett Family (Year 6)
Small Hamper - Fix Family (Pre-Rec)
Tower of Treats – Carroll Family (Year 6)
Prosecco – McGranaghan Family (Year 4)
Prosecco – Rowe Family (Year 2)
Prosecco – Sood Family (Years 3 and Rec)
Prosecco – Pelizzon Family – (Year 3)

Pre- Prep Raffle:

Lego Box – Amber (Rec)
Marvel Art Box – Gianluca (Pre-Rec)

Prep Raffle:

Lego Box – Sebastian (Year 5)
Frozen Art Box – Tayla (Year 5)

SANTA'S REINDEERS VISIT ST DAVID'S!

I am sure your children came home full of their visit to see real reindeer on our school field last Monday. This was organized and funded by the PTA as an end of term treat, and it certainly was, judging by the gasps of incredulity and wonder from the youngest to our oldest pupils!



*A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful
and Healthy New Year from the St
David's Staff Team*