

Friday 17th December

Dear Parents,

Mrs Foulger writes...

As we reach the end of another term, and indeed the year, I would like to start by thanking you for your support and the trust and encouragement so many of you have shown myself and the staff throughout what has been another extremely challenging year. I hope you agree that the staff have absolutely done their best, given their all and now deserve a much-earned rest and time with family.

It has been disappointing to once again have to cancel and change arrangements on so many occasions. However, no decision has been taken lightly and always with the best interests of all parties concerned.

Myself, and most of the Prep staff felt very fortunate and privileged this morning as we were able to form the 'audience' for the Carol Service filmed in the hall. It wasn't in the church, it wasn't in front of friends and family but it was truly special. The children sang their hearts out and alongside the readings, read so beautifully by Year 6, we entered the Christmas story afresh - it came alive as the children immersed themselves in the words and music.

My heartfelt thanks to Mrs Sowter and Mrs Pollard who have so obviously patiently inspired the children to learn new songs, play instruments, wave ribbons and ring bells with joy and panache!

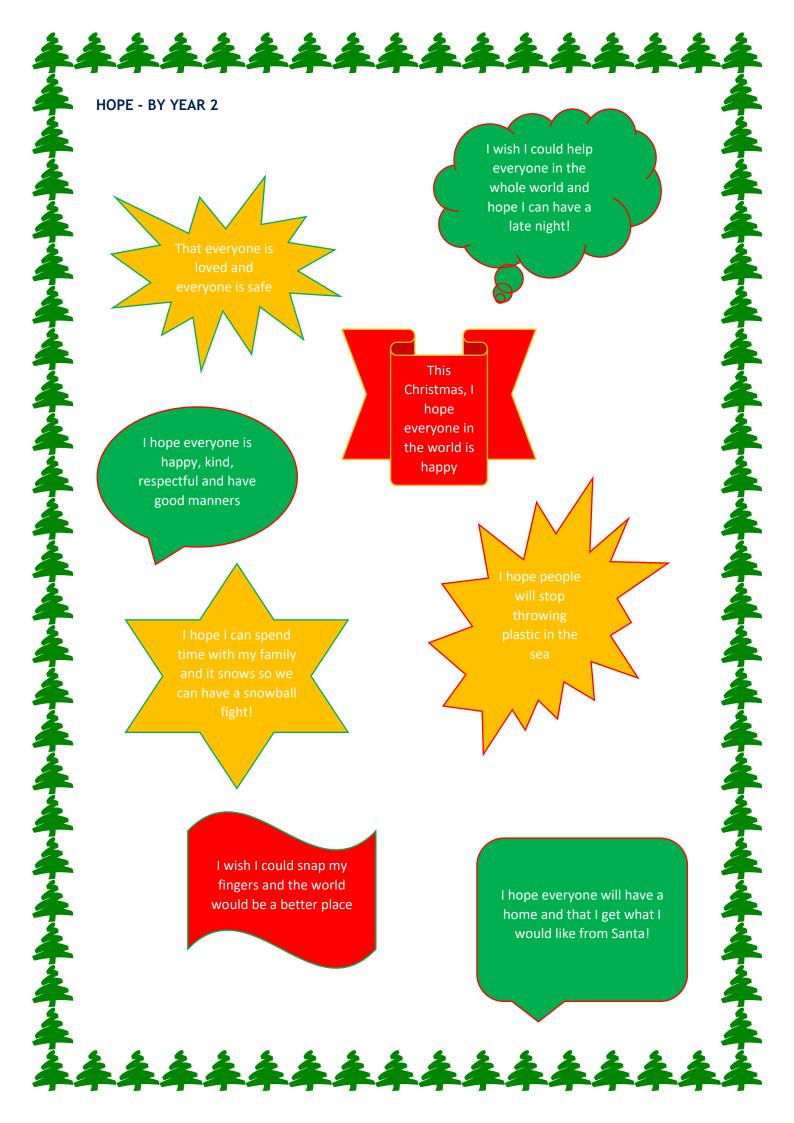
Many of the words sung this morning were extremely powerful and particularly resonated at this time and in these days of uncertainty. They spoke of a 'story to be told, through the generations and across the nations. A story that is based on love, 'Love has come into the world for everyone. God's own son, bringing us hope, helping us live, showing us love'.

Not a bad message for any us, regardless of our personal beliefs, creed or culture. Hope comes from believing that love and kindness towards one another can help make our world a better place. Just read what some of the Year 2 children have to say! (see below)

As we go into this Christmas season and approach another New Year, I would like, on behalf of all the staff, to wish you the very best of breaks. Enjoy time with family and friends and keep well,

Love and peace be with you all,

Julia Foulger



BEBRAS COMPUTING CHALLENGE 2021

Mrs Campbell writes...

We are delighted to have had so many children compete in this challenge once again this year. All children from Year 2 upwards that participated should have received a certificate to bring home. A special well done to the teams that got a merit or distinction!

It was fantastic that every child in Year 6 took part in the individual Junior Challenge.

Well done Year 6!

A special mention must go to the four Year 6 children with the highest results who have been invited to take part in the 2022 Oxford University Computing Challenge in February.

They are:

Ava C

Mya B

Matthew T

Anoushka G

Huge congratulations must also go to two teams that got the **maximum marks** in the Castors category, a St David's first!

They are:

Louis B and Guhan K

Flossie I and Amelie T

Keep up the safe and wise use of technology everyone!



BOOK FAIR UPDATE

Mrs Bishop writes...

Thank you so much for your support with the recent Book Fair. We have raised an amazing £700 to spend on books for the school and the class teachers are all very much looking forward to adding to their class libraries as a result of your generosity. This really will make a huge difference to our reading programme, and I can't thank you enough.



Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to making the Christmas Fair actually happen this year. It was a huge success and enjoyed by many families and friends of the school. It was especially lovely to see a record number of 'old' Davidians come back to the school and enjoy meeting up with both classmates and staff.

Particular thanks must go to the PTA team who organised, cajoled, agonised, encouraged and created in equal measures! We understand that over £3,000.00 was raised, a sum that will be put to good use over the coming months.

PTA - Your efforts do not go unnoticed or unappreciated - THANK YOU.



ECO COMMITTEE:

Mrs Hills is delighted to announce her new ECO committee members. All pupils had the opportunity to prepare their 'pitch', outlining their vision and ideas as well as giving the reasons why they deserved a place on the committee. After each year group had the chance to consider the prospective candidates, the following representatives were elected:

YEAR 1 - Kush K and Jacob H

YEAR 2 - Aria

YEAR 3 - Tobi O

YEAR 4 - Mia J

YEAR 5 - Kairay P and Flossie I

YEAR 6 - Kayla O



In addition, Isabella H and Henry J are the school appointed ECO champions and will also form part of the committee.

Watch out for the date of the first meeting in the New Year



SPRING TERM begins Wednesday 5th January

W/C Monday 10th January - Clubs and Music Lessons begin

Wednesday 19th January - PTA Mtg.

Thursday 3rd February - NSPCC Number Day

Friday 4th February - Parent Ambassador Lunch

Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th February - Year 6 'Bikeability'

W/C Monday 14th February - HALF TERM

Tuesday 1st March - Quiz Club Competition @ Alleyns

Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd March - LIFE BUS sessions

Thursday 10th March - Music Festival (provisional)

Friday 11th March - ISA Girls Football Tournament (provisional)

Saturday 12th March - Bromley Festival

Saturday 19th March - Bromley Festival

Friday 25th March - Culture and Diversity Day

Saturday 26th March - Open Morning

Friday 1st April - TERM ENDS

STAFF NEWS:

After some deliberation, Mrs Tierney has decided to leave her role as Teaching Assistant in order to focus more on her family. We would like to thank her for the part she has played in encouraging the EYs pupils. She will be especially missed for her lively story telling sessions and her love of the outdoors and Forest School.

In other news... we are delighted that we will be welcoming a new member of staff to our EYs team in January. Miss Abbie Smith comes with a lot of experience, having been a nursery room leader at a local nursery. In addition to her Teaching Assistant role, she will be taking responsibility for arranging and inspiring our increasingly popular holiday Rainbow Clubs.

At St David's we work the children hard and expectations are high. However, what you might not know is that the staff work extremely hard too, not just preparing great lessons and marking work but undertaking studying themselves. Several of our TAs are currently studying with the OU to qualify as class teachers, one is converting their existing qualifications to a higher-level TA and another is training as a teacher through the Apprenticeship scheme. In addition, more senior members of staff are also 'upskilling' and undertaking a variety of courses and training, all to benefit and support our pupils.

HEAD TEACHER AWARDS

Anya C-H	Year 1	
Nia P	Year 1	
Adriana A	Year 1	
Kai H	Year 1	
Jenna K	Year 1	
Alev C	Year 2	
William J	Year 2	
Charlotte R	Year 2	
Penelope S	Year 2	
Ziya T	Year 2	
Alisa A	Year 3	
Chidera N	Year 3	
Tobi O	Year 3	
Elliot N	Year 4	
Tanya S	Year 4	
Leonardo P	Year 4	
Will B	Year 4	
Sofia A	Year 5	
Amelie T	Year 5	
Issac D	Year 5	
Mya B	Year 6	
Orlando C	Year 6	
Harry C	Year 6	
Isabella H	Year 6	
Kieran M	Year 6	
Charlotte M	Year 6	
Kayla O	Year 6	
Tayla P	Year 6	
Henry T	Year 6	
Matthew T	Year 6	
Alisse W	Year 6	





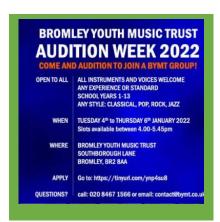
We love our music at St David's! At most times of every day, there is usually the sound of music coming from somewhere around the school. Maybe a class learning the recorder or ukulele in the Cabin, someone drumming in the Hub, choir having an early morning sing -along or one of the many other individual instrumental lessons taking place.

We are fortunate to have developed strong links with Bromley Youth Music Trust (BYMT), where many of our peripatetic music teachers come from. They are holding 'Open Audition' sessions (See below) thoroughly endorsed by Mrs Sowter, she would love some of our musicians to go along with a view to joining one of their ensembles or training bands. Her own children began their musical journeys at BYMT so she knows first hand the benefits and pleasures of being part of that organisation.

A few weeks ago, Mrs Cousin, one of our visiting teachers came to an assembly and played her flute for us. She loves coming to St David's and would love to have more pupils to teach. A number of children did express an interest in learning the flute so please get in touch with Mrs Sowter if you would like your child to start lessons with Mrs Cousin.

BREAKING NEWS:

We have just heard that the Young Voices Concert in January has been postponed, due to the upsurge in Covid cases. This is really disappointing as the choir have worked so hard to be 'concert ready'. As soon as we have a new date we will let you know and please watch out for choir rehearsal dates in the New Year.







JUNIOR TRANSPORT NEWS



Mrs Page writes...

Our Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTA's) Harry C and Kayla O have been busy this term. They organised their first competition which was about e-scooters and were pleased to receive 27 entries. The winner was Rory (Y4) and his entry was sent off to be judged in the overall Borough competition.





Harry and Kayla also assisted at the Y2 Scootsure training session held at St David's. Scootsure is intended to improve safety for riders and pedestrians and make scooting to school a viable, active and sustainable alternative to using the car. They gave out 48 Smart Movers badges for November, which is a slight increase from October. Well done to our JTA's and thank you to all the families who have supported in any way.

HANDWRITING COMPETITION

All classes from Year 1 upwards were set a handwriting challenge by Miss Bonner and Mrs Bishop. They all had a Christmas recipe to copy and decorate as they wished. The results were judged and these are the worthy winners:

FREJA H	714	Year 1R
AANYA B-R		Year 1B
VIKRAM A	WED	Year 2
EMILY R	CHRISTMAS	Year 3
TANYA S	**	Year 4
MEGAN McG	Mary Comment	Year 5
AVA C		Year 6







A MESSAGE FROM THE PTA COMMITTEE

A huge thank you from the PTA to the entire school community for their efforts at the Christmas fair at the end of November. It was wonderful to see so many staff, students (past and present) and parents enjoying themselves and getting into the festive spirit!

So much goes on behind the scenes to pull an event like this together and to help it run successfully on the day. We are so grateful to the team of Class Reps and volunteers who set up and ran their stalls with such enthusiasm, to the staff who gave up time on their weekend to do their bit to make the fair extra special for the children, and to all the families for their generosity in the run up to the fair and on the day itself. We could not have done it without you. We are delighted to let you all know that we raised in excess of £3,000! Discussions are underway as to what this will be invested in... watch this space!

In our first eco initiative of 2022, the PTA would like to ask for donations of Christmas jumpers in January. We all probably have a few questionable choices lurking in the back of the wardrobe, not to mention those that children have grown out of and which have only had a handful of wears. So many Christmas jumpers get very limited use before being packed away and forgotten about or sent to landfill. The environmental impact of this fast fashion item is huge. We hope to collect as many clean, good quality unwanted jumpers as possible which can then be hired out at next year's Christmas fair and annually thereafter. Together we can reduce the school community's environmental footprint and also raise funds for our children's benefit. Thank you for your support!

The first PTA meeting of 2022 will be held on Wednesday 19th January. We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join the team and invite anyone interested in getting involved to join us at this meeting. There are numerous ways in which you can participate, including by assisting with specific events or on an "as needed" basis. So if you are interested, please don't be put off by the misconception that it is a full time commitment. Please register your interest by emailing stdavidspreppta@gmail.com and further details will be provided.



