



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School
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8th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to update you on the lovely things that have been happening in school recently and the exciting events that are coming up.

A Big Thank You

We have been so grateful for all your donations over the last month! Through our Poppy appeal, we were able to raise £59.72 to donate to the Royal British Legion. Our Larks and Robins Nativity raised an incredible £200 which we will put into our Creative Arts Fund for future productions and school events. Finally, it has been lovely walking around school today and seeing the array of Christmas jumpers on display. We have raised £68.20 for the Save the Children charity.

Christmas Tree

We would like to say a massive thank you to Richard Duchesne from 'Christmas in Stanningfield' for their generous donation. Pupils and staff have taken great joy in decorating and viewing our enormous Christmas tree. It was a joy to see the evening performance of the nativity – with only a spot light and twinkling Christmas tree lights decorating the room. It has made us all feel very festive.

Nativity

Massive congratulations to all our children and staff in Larks and Robins classes for their super performance of 'Baarmy Bethlehem!' We thought they were fantastic - well done team. Thank you to parents who have shared their lovely comments after each show – we are thrilled that you enjoyed it.

Pantomime Trip

What a truly wonderful day we had at our first whole school trip to the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds. We had a fantastic time watching the Robin Hood production. Pupils loved singing along to songs, cheering the heroes and booing the villains! Comments from our pupils included 'This is the best day of my life!' and 'Can we come again tomorrow!'. The children were superbly behaved and represented the school brilliantly. Well done everyone. Highlights from the performance included a hilarious remake of 'The twelve days of Christmas' and some active audience participation!

Cygnets – Gatehouse Foodbank Collection

Cygnets are running a collection for the Gatehouse Foodbank over the festive period. If you would like to make a donation, please bring it in by 13th December. We were able to make a superb donation as part of our Harvest Festival and are happy to support Cygnets' donation over the Christmas period.

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Christmas Carols – Pinford End Nursing Home

I had the absolute pleasure of taking our pupils from years 4,5 and 6 to Pinford End Nursing Home today to sing Carols. We had previously sent some 'school made' Christmas decorations that the children enjoyed seeing on display. We performed songs that included We Three Kings, Rudolph, Love Shone Down and more. The children were fantastic and received wonderful smiles and applause from all the residents. Their staff also surprised us with mince pies and a gift for every child. We were so glad that we were able to spread some Christmas cheer and look forward to returning next year.

Geography – Local Area Walk

Year 1,2, and 3 wrapped up warm this week to go on a local area walk. This was to enhance their Geography topic, focusing on map skills as well as learning about our local area. Pupils were able to identify manmade and natural geographical features before returning to school and plotting these features as well as other landmarks on their own map. Well done everyone!

InvestED Wellbeing

We have been continuing our wellbeing program this half term and are delighted with the results that we are seeing in school. As well as our daily pitstops, we have been introducing calming techniques to help pupils find 'balance' when experiencing different emotions. This has helped pupils regulate and overcome challenges or worries that they may have. It has been wonderful to receive contact from parents sharing that pupils have been using these techniques at home to help them also. Thank you to all parents who have shared their experiences.

Safeguarding Update

This month's safeguarding update is about 'ACEs' (adverse childhood experiences). This short animated film has been developed to raise awareness of ACEs, their potential to damage health across the life course and the roles that different agencies can play in preventing ACEs and supporting families. If you have any questions about any of our safeguarding features, then please speak to Mr Varela or Mrs Flatman.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHgLYI9KZ-A&t=12s>

Library Update

A massive thank you to all children and parents that have been using our weekly library sessions after school to explore new literature and engage in reading! I have loved seeing so many of you and making note of the vast variety of books that have been checked out – there really is a book for everyone! It has been lovely to hear pupils and parents discussing books that they have enjoyed and sharing recommendations with each other. If you would like to visit the library – it is open every Friday after school from 3:15 – 4pm. Enter through Miss Tyler's classroom. If you would like to feature a book recommendation in our next newsletter, please get in touch!

Mr Varela recommends...

Key Stage Two page turner = Rooftoppers by Katherine Rundell

Nonfiction fun = Explorers – amazing tales of the World's Greatest Adventurers (910.9)

Family share = 100 Best Poems for Children (821)

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Dates for your Diary

December 2022

Friday 9th – Rocksteady Concert 2:30pm
Monday 12th – Christingle Carol singing 2:40pm
Wednesday 14th – Christmas Lunch
Thursday 15th – PTFA Christmas Disco
Friday 16th December – PD day

January 2023

Tuesday 3rd – PD day
Wednesday 4th – 1st day back for children
Wednesday 25th – STEM day – Parents welcome

On behalf of all the staff, governors and ofcourse our children may we wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Best wishes
Bobby Varela
Head of School

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