



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As this exciting half term comes towards its end, I would like to update you on the lovely things that have been happening in school. But before that, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your help and support over Autumn term and wish you an enjoyable and restful Christmas.

A Big Thank You

We have been so grateful for all your donations over the last month! Our Larks and Robins Nativity raised an incredible £126.97 which we will put into our creative Arts Fund for future productions and school events. Finally, earlier in the month, it was wonderful to see pictures of pupils with an array of Christmas jumpers on display. We raised £51 for the Save the Children charity.

Christmas Tree

We would like to say a massive thank you to Richard Duchesne from 'Xmas 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 the twinkly stars and bright 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 class for their super performance of 'Twinkly Nativity' 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 whole school trip to the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds. We had a fantastic time watching the Snow White production. Pupils loved singing along to songs, cheering the heroes and booing the villains! Pupils are still talking about the unexpected star of the show – Mr Sharp! The children were superbly behaved and represented the school brilliantly. Well done everyone. This is an annual event we all love and is such a wonderful experience for our pupils.

PTFA

A massive thank you to all the members of the PTFA for working with the school to make the lead up to Christmas so special. The children had a fantastic Christmas lunch this week; I heard some lovely sounds of awe and wonder as pupils were walking by my office, heading to the hall and saw all the wonderful decorations on display! We also had a joyous time at the Christmas shop, thinking of others and purchasing gifts for loved ones before carefully wrapping them and writing special messages. Please head over to our Facebook page to see some lovely photos of both events.

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Mark Baird Fencing

You will have no doubt seen the super new fence which surrounds Larks class outdoor play area. The contractor we used, Mark Baird Fencing did an amazing job and we are very pleased with the final result.

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 who 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 offer a book recommendation to be featured 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)

Dates for your Diary

January

Wednesday 3rd – PD day

Thursday 4th – 1st day back for children

Thursday 11th – the first session of our Lego after school club – Kids with Bricks (years 3-5) places still available.

Best Wishes

Bobby Varela

Head of School

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