

Parentmail Bulletin – 8th December 2017

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"Enjoy, aspire and achieve together to be the best that we can be."

Our current value is "Simplicity and Joy."

Advent and Christmas - Joyful Season has certainly arrived

Thank you very much for your support for the Christmas Tree festival. It was lovely to see our beautiful tree in the Congregational Church. Also lovely to see numerous Shillington pupils visiting and enjoying the scene. The tree is back and looking beautifully decorated in the school hall.

The annual visit to the Panto was also a very joyful event – quite a business getting us all onto three coaches in the very narrow roads by the school.

Friday 8th sees a very large number of Year 4s coming out to **sing carols with Raynsford Lower School** at Sainsbury's Biggleswade. This rather imposed on parents as we could only involve children whose parents could take them over to Biggleswade and back so we would like to thank everyone for their support.

And then.....

PTFA Christmas Fayre

We also look forward to seeing lots and lots of our families in school for what promises to be a really fabulous event at the Christmas Fayre after school. Why not come and see Santa, peruse the many stalls and take part in the many activities we have on offer? You can decorate biscuits, make reindeer food, have your face painted, eat food, buy sweets, have a go on the teddy tombola and much more! Many thanks to the PTFA for all their hard work in putting this event on – it promises to be great evening!

Message from the PTFA re Christmas Fayre today 3:45pm - 6pm

Dear all PTFA members - the Christmas Fayre takes place **today** after school, so please come along for some Christmas fun and a cup of mulled wine! Bring plenty of change as there are lots for the kids to do and buy!

Raffle tickets will be sold on the door until 4:30pm. Any outstanding raffle tickets from book bags can still be handed back to reception today. The Raffle will be drawn at 5:30pm.

If you would like face painting or a visit to Santa's grotto please go and put your name on the list when you come into the Fayre so we can try and get as many people seen as possible, again please be a couple of minutes early so we can ensure everyone gets through on time. Christmas colouring will be available while kids wait.

We could still do with a couple of helpers; you are welcome to have your child with you if it helps. We need some helpers on the PTFA stall, which will just mean taking money for items sold and we will team you up with someone. It would be for 30 minutes at either 4:45 or 5:15, so would have hopefully given you enough time to have a good look around yourselves.

Equally if you want to help on the Santa shop giving out gifts, Anne would appreciate some help in this busy area.

KS1 Christmas at Church

Unicorns, Year 1 and Year 2 have been working very hard to create a lovely Christmas celebration which takes place in the parish church on both Monday 11th at 2.00pm and Tuesday 12th at 10.00am. Everyone is welcome to attend. Children will be returning to school after each performance and will be released as normal at the end of the school day.

Rainbows and Pixies Wiggly Nativity

Rainbows and Pixies have also been working very hard learning lines and songs for their nativity performance on Thursday 14th at 10.00am and 2.30pm. Entry to concerts is by ticket only which have already been sent home in book bags. We look forward to seeing you all there to support them.

On Wednesday...School Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

This takes place on Wednesday 13th December with members of the Governing Board and PTFA serving the food. Orders for this are now closed.

We would welcome donations of £1 per child with money raised going to Save the Children. Christmas jumpers are to be worn with normal school trousers/skirts.

Carol singing for parents of children in years 3 and 4

Reverend Angus McCormick will be leading his annual unpacking Christmas assembly with the whole school on Monday 18th December.

Following on from a parent inquiry, that morning will start with a 20 minute Carol Service for Year 3 and 4 and their families – just come on in when school opens up.

Transfer to Middle School

Applications for children transferring to middle school must be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Admissions Team by **Monday 15th January 2017**.

- If parents need to speak to the School Admissions Team they should do so as soon as possible because they become extremely busy around the closing date
- All applications received from 16 January 2017 will be classed as late and not processed until the late allocation round, which will take place after the national offer day for on time applications. Submitting a late application significantly reduces a child's chance of an offer of a place at one of their preferred schools. There is no automatic transfer from lower to middle school so parents must apply to their home local authority.
- The Admissions Team are downloading applications on a weekly basis. It is therefore vital that applications are made by 15th January.
- 40% of 'late applications' last year were from families who thought they would get in easily – lived in the area, had a sibling attending.
- We know that three of the four Middle Schools in this area are very full so it is essential to have your application in on time.

Applying for a place at Shillington Lower for September 2018

As with the Middle School process, the Admissions Team look at applications received by 15th January 2018 and will not look at late applications until all offers have been processed at the end of the Spring Term. If you or any of your friends are planning on a place at our lovely school it will make the process so much easier to have the application lodged by 15th January.

Staffing

- It has been lovely to welcome Miss Gradwell back to school – and a very busy season she has picked to return.
- Mrs Osborne has also had a very lively and fun filled first week as part of the great Pixie pre-school team.
- We ought to have given Mr Griffin a mention in ParentMail at the start of this half-term. He has joined Shillington Lower as a PE trainee and is already very much part of school life for all of the children.
- We say goodbye to Mr Haddon and would like to thank him for his guidance during the past three months he has been with us.
- Finally, it is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Burton at Christmas as she leaves us for a new adventure with her husband. Mrs Burton has worked at Shillington for many years and has supported and nurtured many children in that time. She has given so much to our school community, often over and above her normal day to day role. She has a unique way of working with children to get the very best out of each and every one of them and she will be greatly missed by the children and staff and we all wish her lots of luck and happiness. A collection is open if anyone would like to contribute please pop into the office.

End of term

We break up for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday 19th December at the usual time and pupils return on Wednesday 3rd January 2017. (Staff will be in school for a Training Day on Tuesday 2nd January. It will be our first joint training day with Stondon Lower and we are delighted to be welcoming Stondon staff to Shillington for the day).

Top Table

Mr Haddon was joined at Top Table on Monday lunchtime by the following pupils who were chosen for their exemplary behaviour and values:

Kai, Lottie, Edward, Poppy, Quinn, Loui, Alexcia, Jack, Rheanna, Niah.

Shillington Superstars

Rainbows: Limani

Unicorns: Rosemary

Dragons: Logan

Centaurs: Josh

Phoenix: Niah

Well done everyone!

Dates for your diary

8 th December	PTFA Christmas Fayre
11 th December	KS1 Christmas at Church- 2pm at All Saint's Church
12 th December	KS1 Christmas at church - 10am at All Saint's Church
13 th December	School Christmas dinner
13 th December	Christmas jumper day - £1 donation
14 th December	Rainbows and Pixies Wriggly Nativity

Term Dates

Tues 5th Sept 2017 – Tues 19th Dec 2017
Weds 3rd Jan 2018 – Thurs 29th March 2018
(Half term 12th Feb – 16th Feb 2018)
Tues 17th Apr 2018 – Fri 20th July 2018
(Half term 28th May – 1st June 2018)
May Day 7th May – Sch Closed

** Please note our school is open Mon 4th June (Some surrounding schools are closed) **