

From the Head Master
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HEAD MASTER'S END OF TERM NEWSLETTER

MICHAELMAS TERM 2015

Dear Parents

We have arrived at the end of another term and what a successful term it has been. In addition to my letter, there is a detailed report on the term's sporting achievements from Mr Mitchell as well as a thorough round up of all the musical activities that have taken place this term from Mr Wilkinson. You should also find a copy of next term's calendar in this end of term mailing.

The Past Two Weeks

Nativity Productions

Over the past few days, the children in the Pre Prep have been involved in Nativity productions and what a delight and joy it has been to watch our youngest pupils enjoying their roles in the plays. For me, our Christmas celebrations don't begin until we have watched these thoroughly enjoyable performances. Many congratulations to all the children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 and, of course, to all the class teachers and teaching assistants. Particular thanks to Mrs Adriano for masterminding these productions and for her splendid accompaniments.

Parents' Group Christmas Fayre

A very big 'thank you' to all members of the Parents' Group Committee for organising a very enjoyable Christmas Fair on Saturday 6th December. We enjoyed a special visit from Santa and I know that the younger members of our community very much enjoyed listening to the stories that he told them that afternoon. It was tremendous to see so many people here to celebrate the start of the festive season and what better



way to end the afternoon than by joining together to sing carols in the courtyard just as the snow began to fall!

House Christmas Market

The joint Houses fundraising at the end of this term centred once again on the Shelterbox charity. Special thanks to everybody for bringing in toys, games, gifts and other items for sale at the market. The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to spend their tokens on the day and this year we raised a staggering £2,000 for this most worthy of causes. Thank you to everyone for your support and especially to the Heads of House for co ordinating this hugely popular annual event.

'Festivo'

The Chapel Choir were joined by musicians from the Household Cavalry in this year's 'Festivo' concert in St George's Chapel. The Nave was packed to capacity to enjoy seasonal music and readings along with audience carols. The boys performed superbly well. Indeed, they have a very busy period coming up, with a concert at St George's, Hanover Square before the end of term, as well as five major services to sing over the Christmas period and we particularly wish them a very happy and successful Christmas 'stay on'.

Christmas Lunches

On Tuesday of this week, our fantastic catering team prepared and served three sittings of Christmas lunch all within the space of two hours; quite a remarkable feat! The children and staff enjoyed roast turkey with all the usual trimmings, chocolate yule log as well as sweets from Santa who paid us a very special visit! Sincere thanks to all the catering staff and especially Amanda Box our Catering Manager who worked so hard to make our Christmas lunches such a special whole school event.

Charitable Giving

In addition to the significant fundraising for Shelterbox at the market, pupils have also, this term, raised significant sums for other charities. Our cakes and coffee morning in September raised £1388 for Macmillan; our recent wear a Christmas jumper day raised in excess of £200 for Shelter, the charity for homeless people, and the sale of poppies and other items for Remembrance this year raised over £600 for the Royal British Legion, the largest amount raised by any local school. Many thanks and 'well done' to everybody for supporting our charitable work this term, in which we have collectively raised nearly £4000.

Staffing News

At the end of this term we say a temporary 'goodbye' to Miss Brooke McClure who begins her maternity leave; we wish her well in the final weeks before the arrival of

her baby in the New Year. We welcome Mrs Sarah Moorst to cover Year 1 in Miss McClure's absence.

We also bid farewell to our four Australian gap students who prepare to head off back 'down under' in time to enjoy Christmas on the beach! We thank all of them for their hard work and commitment over these past twelve months and we wish Matthew, Kaleb, Alie and Charlotte every success and much happiness in the future as they begin their University studies in the New Year.

Other News

Reports

The end of Michaelmas Extended Review Cards will be uploaded onto the Parent Portal for you to access your son's/daughter's report(s). The children have worked incredibly hard this term and I hope you will enjoy reading your child's report. As always, if you have any feedback on the reports, please contact your child's Form Tutor or Class Teacher in the New Year.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Members of Years 6 and 7 travelled to London on Wednesday 9th December to attend an evening performance of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. It was a whizz-popping, scrumptious show with some very impressive special effects. The pupils behaved very well despite getting back to school at 11pm!

Holiday Art Club

There are still places available for the Art Club for Reception to Year 3 children. Dates available are Friday 18th, Saturday 19th, Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December. The club runs from 9.30am to 12.30pm and costs £20 a session. Please email sally.saunders@stgstaff.co.uk or louise.pollock@stgstaff.co.uk to book a place.

Looking further ahead

Lent Term 2016

Tuesday 5th January:

Staff Inset day (**NO** pupils in school)
Boarding pupils return after 7pm as per the arrangements of the House Parents.


Wednesday 6th January 2016:

Start of term (times as per the calendar)

As the term comes to a close, it is quite remarkable to look back over the past few weeks, let alone the term, to see just how busy the children have been; in concerts and recitals, fixtures, trips and excursions and in a whole host of other events. They continue to give of their all for their school and for that, I extend to them my appreciation and sincere thanks. Thank you also to all my colleagues, teachers, teaching assistants, admin and support staff who work so tremendously hard in supporting, maintaining and promoting the St George's ethos. May I also express my sincere thanks to all parents for your unwavering support of every aspect of school life.

Louise, the children and I extend to you and your families our warmest best wishes for a very happy, joyous and safe Christmas and we wish you peace and happiness in the year ahead.

With every good wish

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris McDade', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Chris McDade