



## Parents & Carers

December 2017



### *Emmaus*

The Emmaus charity supports homeless people. The nearest Emmaus hostel is opposite Cowley Police Station. Our Harvest food was donated to the hostel back in October and on Wednesday 6th December Jonathon came to speak to our Year 6 children on behalf of their organisation. Year 6 asked really thought provoking questions about homelessness in Oxford. Furthermore, Miss Molloy organised a collection of used handbags from our staff team; the handbags were filled with toiletries that adults need. They were donated to Emmaus on the Thursday before Christmas.

### **SSNAP**

SSNAP is located at the John Radcliffe Hospital and is dedicated to supporting the families of sick and premature babies. This charity supported Mr and Mrs Wootton through a worrying and difficult time. In thanksgiving for their work, our children chose to support this charity who have also supported many of our families in our school over the years.

### **Christmas Plays**

Thank you to all the staff in EYFS and Key Stage 1 who spent long hours putting together the Nativity plays for the children. We hope you enjoyed them, we certainly did as a school!



**Our wonderful Christmas tree that was filled with decorations created by our wonderful children. Well done to all the winners! Thank you to all parents who made decorations with their children.**

**God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word, that we may bring your life to the waiting world. Grant this through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

### **Our Faith**

Throughout November and December the children have been participating in periods of reflection and meditation led by the teachers. This involves listening to reflective music, focusing on pictures, candles or artefacts and having time to sit, be still and silent to talk to God. The impact of this has been very positive and the children are very keen to start leading acts of collective worship themselves. They have been organised into 'Power of Prayer Groups' and we look forward to seeing what ideas the children have after Christmas.

### **Advent Appeal**

At the start of Advent our Faith Leaders met and we discussed different charities. The children decided to support two charities: Emmaus and SSNAP.

### Key Stage 2 Carol Service

Thank you to the children in Key Stage 2 who attended the carol service. We received many compliments from parents, the Sisters and members of the parish on how well the children read and sang.

### Farewell

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Mrs Thomas from the office. Mrs Thomas has been with us for the past two years and we wish her every happiness in the future.

### First Holy Communion 2018



Thank you to all the parents who returned application forms for their child to receive the sacrament. On Saturday 3rd March we will be hosting a First Holy Communion fair. Simply Perfect, a company selling dresses, ties, accessories and memorabilia, will be in school from 11am – 3pm selling their merchandise; a convenient way for you to purchase items for their special day.

### Christ Church Cathedral



On Wednesday 29th November Year 5 sang their hearts out at Christ Church Cathedral. Accompanied by the Cathedral pianist, our children sang with three other local primary schools and the choristers from Christ Church Cathedral School. We were also treated to a performance of 'Sussex Carol' and a rendition of 'Sleigh Ride' by the resident Cathedral organist. This experience has been wonderful and we look forward to continuing our work with Ms Biddel, Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral School.



### Panto Trip

All the children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the panto on Monday 4th December. It was so lovely to see the children experiencing music, singing and drama live on stage at the theatre. One child said "I have never been to the theatre before, this is just absolutely amazing." Mr Griffiths, one of our PE teachers, was even invited on stage much to the laughter of the children (and staff)! They thoroughly enjoyed seeing one of their teachers dancing and singing on stage.

### Sporting Events

Thank you to Mr Pearce who has organised several sports events for our teams to attend. Upon returning he has spoken about the outstanding sportsmanship and behaviour from our children.

Two teachers from The Oxford Academy congratulated Mr Pearce on how well behaved and helpful our children were.

### Next Term

#### Circles of Success and Virtues

On Monday 8th January we will be launching a new reward system called 'Circles of Success and Virtues.' This replaces the merit system and encourages our children to be successful when learning by: trying new things, not giving up when tasks become challenging, concentrating, working hard and understanding others, for example. Alongside these, the children will understand and show how they can improve their lives through the virtues. This all helps our children to expand their mindset of learning whilst growing in our faith to try to become better people in our world.

More information will follow in the January newsletter.

#### School returns on Thursday 4th January 2018 at 8.40am.

Key dates for next term will be sent out during the first week of the new term.

*We hope you have had a lovely Christmas break and we send every best wish for a happy and healthy 2018.*

**With best wishes**

*Miss Davies and all the staff*

