



Stonegate C of E Primary School

Love of Learning for Life

Dear Parents,

As we start the Christmas holiday, I would like to reflect on how delighted I have been watching every class wholeheartedly implementing our new curriculum and developing wonderful learning activities and experiences across every subject. This has been an excellent first third of the school year.

Jonathan Elms

A huge thank you

I would like to thank the members of the PTA and the school staffing team for all of their help and support. Without their dedication, we would not have been able to provide the number and range of activities we have had throughout this whole year.

PTA end of term letter

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of the calendar year we'd like to take a moment to thank you for all your support, and to update you on how some of the proceeds have been used around the school.

But first a quick reminder of the many ways you have supported your PTA this term - we kicked things off with the Pumpkin Party in September, raising £425. We then supported the Wadhurst Warriors clearing up after Bonfire Night for which we received a very large £500 cheque! At the start of December, we held our first school disco in five years, raising more than £300 - the dance off in particular was a huge hit with the children!



As ever we were extremely grateful for your support at our Christmas events, especially as we know it's a demanding time. Thank you so much for all of your generous donations to the Christmas shopping event - with your support we were able to raise £403, and the elves had a great time helping the children with their shopping! Christmas lunch went down a storm with a special visit from the big man himself. Thank you also for all of your donations towards our raffle hampers, which raised just over £500. Finally, we got to see many of you for a mulled wine and a mince pie at the Crib Concert last night which raised £120.

We've also made £100 from sales of pre-loved uniform, thank you for donating and choosing to shop pre-loved when kitting your children out for school. Our easy fundraising supporters have raised over £125 since September just through their online shopping. If you haven't already, please do visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stonegateprimary/ and sign up.

A huge thank you for all your support. Thanks to you we've been able to commit to providing £100 per class, per term for materials to support classroom teaching, an interactive whiteboard for the outdoor classroom, new tables and chairs for Seedlings class and a water table for EYFS. We've also supported the school with a Purple Mash licence, dyslexia books, Phonics Play licence and sensory equipment.

None of this would be possible without your support so thank you once again. Every child at Stonegate really does benefit.

If you would like to get involved with the PTA, please ask one of the members for more details, or join our 'Friends of the PTA' WhatsApp group where we shout out for extra help when needed.

We really look forward to seeing you all at our next event!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas

Stonegate PTA

Upcoming Events

Term 3

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Inset Day

Wednesday 3rd January

Term starts for School and Pre-School

Monday 8th January

Open Morning for Prospective Parents

Monday 15th January

Young Voices at the O2 London

Friday 19th January

Movies in Snoozies

Friday 2nd February

School Talent Show and Young Voices Concert.

Friday 9th February

Term 3 Ends

Term 4

Starts: Monday 19th February

Finishes: Wednesday 27th March

Inset Day – Thursday 28th March

Term 5

Starts: Monday 15th April

Finishes: Friday 24th May

Year 6 SATs – 13th to 16th May

Term 6

Starts: Monday 3rd June

Finishes: Friday 19th July

Inset Days - Monday 22nd and

Tuesday 23rd July

Build a Christmas

NeuroNinja



Please find below a link to a video from Action Your Potential all about positive brain health and well-being for you and your family this Christmas and beyond.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TW6e7Wgylk8>

Wonderful End to this term

I would like to share with you all the fantastic activities which have taken place at the end of this term.

Pre-School Christmas Sing

At the start of our Christmas week we were treated to the Pre-School singing a range of Christmas songs. I was astounded by their confidence, the gusto in which they belted out the songs and how they remembered so many words. They were a real credit to Mrs Jackson, Mrs Casse and Mrs Marchuk who had prepared them so well.



Nativity



I was so very fortunate to watch the Reception and Year 1/2 Nativity performance. It was absolutely amazing! The standard of singing, reading, acting and comic timing from our youngest children was unbelievable. Thank you to Mrs Young for leading the performance and to Mrs Hazeldine, Miss Jenner, Mrs Moran, Mrs White, Mrs Williams and Mrs Mortimer for their work in making the show a success.

A recording of the performance is available to all parents courtesy of the Luffman family who were there on the day filming the action – thank you to them.

Yummy Christmas Dinner

Mrs Knight and Mrs Burton excelled themselves once again, by producing a delicious Christmas Dinner. Having the whole school and Pre-School altogether in the School Hall is very magical, especially when you are hearing the children telling jokes and pulling their recycled crackers.

Father Christmas came to Stonegate

Following the Christmas Dinner, the adventure playground was ringing with the bells of a very special visitor, Father Christmas. Our Prayer Space was transformed into an outdoor wonderland. Every child visited him, shared what they were most looking forward to about Christmas and everyone received a bag of chocolate coins or an alternative dietary treat.



Thinking of Others

We have been using this time to think about others – these are some ways we have been helping this term.

Sending Christmas Wishes

Every child in the school has been able to support Wadhurst Warriors with the decoration of their tree in the center of the Wadhurst village. Each child was given a piece of ribbon and wrote a Christmas wish. As always, I was delighted at the depth of thought and compassion children from Stonegate have.



Christmas Jumper Day



Every child in the school came to school wearing their favourite Christmas Jumper.

I am really pleased to announce that we have raised £140 to support our Church's chosen Christmas charity - Tearfund.

Rotary Shoe Boxes

I would like to thank the families who supported our annual shoe box appeal. The Rotary Club are always delighted to be able to send these boxes to children and their families in Eastern Europe.



Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

In line with the work of our Year 6 this Christmas, I would like to share a quote from my favourite Christmas film and something to discuss at home, "Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas... perhaps ...means a little bit more?" — Dr. Seuss, 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas!'

Have a great Christmas - see you all on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

In the Community

Christmas Trees

A big thank you to Marek for the donation of our beautiful Christmas tree. It is absolutely stunning and children from Year 6 had a great time decorating it.

If you still need to get a tree, then visit Marek at The Stables, Coombe Lane, Wadhurst, TN5 6NU.

Ruston House Interiors



The children from Year 6 have been involved in a wonderful community-focused project to design and create two Christmas windows for Ruston House in the village of Ticehurst.

Following a half-term homework project, children produced a set of ideas for how the windows could look. Following the creation of a mood board, inspired by The Grinch, the children's ideas were sent to Joe and Trish at the shop.

The children then constructed the items to bring the windows to life. I would like to thank the parents and staff from Year 6 who have supported the project by the sourcing of items and by helping make the props. If you are in the village, then please visit.

Supporting our Gardening Club

A big thank you to Wadhurst Scaffolding who donated a beautiful new wheelbarrow to support our Gardening Club and Forest School.



Stonegate Church Services

Christmas Carol Service at 1800 on Sunday 17th December.

Christmas Day Festival at 1030 on the 25th December