

# St. Paul's C.E. Primary School (Crompton Street - Walkden) CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Dated: 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents

As we rapidly approach the Christmas break, can I please take the opportunity to say thank you and share some information ready for the new term.

## **Choir at the Ellesmere Centre**

Many thanks to Choir who sang at the Ellesmere Centre and to the parents who supported this event. The children, as always were a credit to school and themselves.

## **Christmas Jumper Day**

Christmas Jumper Day raised a total of £192.82 for Save the Children. Many thanks to everyone who took part in this event.

## **Christmas Raffle**

The Christmas raffle was drawn at the end of the production on Wednesday morning. £259 was raised – many thanks to everyone who bought tickets. Please check the school website or the list in the office to see if you are a winner.

## **Christmas Church Service**

Many thanks to all the parents who supported us in our carol concert this morning – we really do appreciate it.

## **Christmas Productions**

Many thanks to everyone who attended our Christmas Productions this week. We would like to thank you for your ongoing support. Many thanks again to the fantastic team of staff who were involved in preparing the children in every way to ensure that the productions were as fantastic as always!

## **Staffing**

Many thanks to Mrs McLellan and Miss Knowles who have been teaching Year 4 and Year 1 this half term and have been a valued part of our school team during this time. After Christmas Mrs Lally will be teaching Year 4 with Mrs Nowland in Mr McCarthy's absence and Miss Knowles will continue to teach Year 1 until Mrs Cusick's return.

## **Emotional Health and Well being**

As a school we are working towards obtaining the Emotionally Friendly Schools status. Children are working in school on a programme of wellbeing activities and we have continued to add to our book collection in this area with story books and child friendly non-fiction books to support children learning about their own and other's emotional health and wellbeing. Again if you would be interested in borrowing any of these books please come in and speak to us. Please also have a look at our website for more information.

## **After school clubs**

After school clubs went live to book last night and many are full, however, please check parentpay for any with remaining spaces. Please be aware that where a child has committed to the club and does not attend regularly with no good explanation, serious consideration will be given as to whether to offer them a place in future clubs.

## **Online learning**

Please can I ask that children are encouraged to access the Bug Club, Sumdog and Spelling bee online resources at home. These are funded through our school budget for home access, as we feel it is a really useful and

motivating addition to our in-school resources. It does however come at a cost and we do monitor how many children are accessing it to ensure that access to it remains cost effective and is having the greatest impact. If you have lost your child's password your child's class teacher can reissue this, please just ask!

### **Mr O's Online Safety Corner**

Technology can be a great and exciting gift for young people at Christmas. Games consoles, tablets and mobile phones are often at the top of a child's letter to Santa. The UK Safer Internet Centre have created some top tips for parents and carers, looking at what you can do before these gifts arrive under the tree on the 25th December.

#### **Have a look at parental controls:**

Have a look at the device before Christmas day. Take the time to install the parental controls and safety settings that you want onto the device. This way you know how the device works and don't have to worry about finding time to install parental controls once your child already has access to the device.

It is also important to look at what parental controls you have set up on your home internet, as this will help reduce the chances of children stumbling across something inappropriate while browsing the internet. Internet providers offer free parental controls that you may find useful.

*It's important to remember that no filter is ever 100% effective on its own and any controls should only be used if they work for you and your family.*

#### **Have a go on the device yourself**

The easiest way to get to know the safety settings, reporting tools and other features available on the device you've just bought is by having a play on it yourself!

Before wrapping up the new toy, why not charge it up and have a go navigating the tools and resources that are available on it. This also means that first thing on Christmas morning you know you are handing over a fully charged and working device!

#### **Talk to your child about using technology safely**

One of the most important things you can do before handing over a piece of technology is to talk to your child. Having a conversation shows your child that you are engaged in their online lives and that you are available and interested in helping them, should they face difficulties whilst using technology or spending time online. Some conversation starters that could help you to have these discussions include:

- What will you use this device for?
- Can you show me what your favourite thing to do online is?
- Can you show me how to play on your favourite game?
- What tips can you give me about spending time online?
- What is OK and not OK to share online?
- What would you do if something worries you whilst you're online?
- Do you know how you block or report on the games you're playing? Can you show me how to do it?

On behalf of all the staff and governors, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful new year and we look forward to welcoming you and your children back into school from 8.45am on Monday 7th January 2019.

Kind regards

Yvette Sullivan