



# HOW WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

ESTABLISHED 1968

Head Teacher: Mrs C Rowe  
Newsletter 7

19<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents,

We have come to the end of the autumn term and have the festive Christmas break to look forward to. The past few weeks have been filled with many events and activities at How Wood so please prepare for an extra-long newsletter!

The governors and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children, staff and volunteers for all their hard work and dedication and to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

### Christmas Tree

This year we would like to thank Burstons Garden Centre for donating a Christmas tree to How Wood School.

### How Wood School Choir

Our choir have had a very busy month and have sung at the How Wood shops; the Christmas Fayre; Green Wood Park Carol Concert and the St Albans Cathedral Christmas Service. We have a strong choir of 32 children and they have all shown wonderful commitment this year making Mrs Reed and the whole school community very proud.



Members of the choir performing at Green Wood

### The Christmas Fayre

The PTA organised a hugely successful fayre this year raising an amazing £4300! Children, parents, grandparents, family friends and neighbours came to support our school and there was a 'buzz' throughout the afternoon making for a very enjoyable day. Thank you to everyone who came and supported the school and a special 'Thank you' to the PTA and volunteers who worked so hard to make this annual event such a success.

### Year 6 Enterprise Project

This year the children in Year 6 took part in an Enterprise Project and made high quality products that they sold at the Christmas Fayre.

I have to say, I was very impressed at the imagination and genuine entrepreneurship shown by the children who altogether raised £273.76 - an amazing achievement! The overall winners, making £90.25 profit, were the 'Sweet Treats' group. Well done to Megan Adams, Anjum Hussain, Tamsin Ali, Michaela Cain and Layla Goold who have received a Head Teacher's Award in our assembly today.



### **Early Years Foundation Stage & Key Stage 1 Christmas Productions**

Our youngest children brought tears of joy to our eyes performing *Angle Express* beautifully this year. The children sang so sweetly and with such confidence that it was hard to believe that many of them were only 3 years old!

*Whoops-a-Daisy Angel* brought laughter, dance and song to the stage and Years 1 and 2 delighted the audience with their performance. The children were faultless in the delivery of their lines and entertained us all with their singing and dancing.

Well done children and thank you to all the EYFS and Key Stage 1 staff.

The collection for Cancer Research raised £296 – Thank you for your kind and generous donations.

### **Aladdin Pantomime Trip**

The whole school had a really enjoyable time at the Alban Arena in St Albans. I was so impressed with the children's behaviour and, as always, they were fantastic ambassadors for How Wood School.

I would like to apologise for the late arrival of the coach for Year 3 and Year 4 children and thank all parents for their patience whilst waiting at school.

### **French**

On Wednesday last week, the whole of Key Stage 2 were treated to a French Café experience organised by Madame Monk, our volunteer French teacher. The children enjoyed French bread with smoked salmon, brie, brioche, chocolate yule log and grenadine. I know you will join me in thanking Madame Monk for bringing a little bit of France to How Wood.

### **Christmas Lunch**

The whole school came together in the hall on Thursday and enjoyed our annual Christmas lunch. The children pulled crackers and generally had fun whilst eating their dinner, served by the staff team. Thank you to the cooks who worked very hard to prepare and serve over 200 turkey dinners!

### **Christingle**

Year 3 led our Christingle service, gracefully carrying their precious candle-lit Christingles into the hall to form the centre display. Children from Years 6, 5 and 4 shared stories and readings and the singing was peaceful and meaningful - a lovely service as always.



### **Praise Postcards**



Dexter Lindsey and Kristian Ndreca in Year 1 and Abby Palmer, Farris Ajouid-Davis, Louis Moate and Kayra Oney in Year 4 received Praise Postcards for excellent learning. Well done!

## **Staff News**

### **Miss Berry**

I am delighted to let you know that Miss Berry is expecting a baby in May. She anticipates working in Year 5 until Easter by which time I will have appointed a teacher to cover her maternity leave.

### **Mrs Oliver**

Due to the rising number of children experiencing anxiety in primary and secondary education, it is important that we address this issue in a positive, low-key and accessible way so that the children know there is always someone available to support them.

Having undertaken training, Mrs Oliver, our Year 5 TA, has recently taken on an additional role in school. She is now our Pastoral Support Worker and is available to children whenever they need any support or someone to talk to about any worries or concerns. Mrs Oliver has explained her role to the children in an assembly and can be contacted directly by the children at any time or through their teacher/other adult. There is also a post-box located in the library where the children can post their worries/concerns.

## **MAKE LUNCH Charity**

Vineyard partners with the UK charity MAKE LUNCH to provide FREE fresh & healthy lunches for school aged children during the holidays, along with a "lite bite" to eat for parents. Add in some games, crafts, colouring and activities and you've got a fun lunchtime for the whole family! If you or a family you know would like to join in then please visit the website below for more details.

### **Christmas Holidays**

Wednesday 20th December  
12pm-1.45pm

MAKE LUNCH is running on **20th December**. If you feel a family could benefit from this, then please invite them along!

More information can be found at:

<https://www.thevineyardchurch.co.uk/makelunch/>

The Vineyard also run a food/toy/clothes bank on Mondays between 10am-12pm

Thank you & Merry Christmas!

Mrs Rowe  
Head Teacher

## Key Dates for the Spring Term 2018

Date	Event
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	School begins
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Fire Fighters visit EYFS
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Children from Y3/4- Maths Mastermind Workshop @ Bowmansgreen School
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	School Governors visit School Council
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30pm to 6pm
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultation Meetings 5pm to 8pm
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Start of half-term – school finishes normal time
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	School begins
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Perform dance and drama workshops
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Netball Tournament
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March @ 12.45pm	Year 6 Crucial Crew Visit @ St Albans Fire Station
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	<i>The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> M&M Productions
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March @ 9.30am	Year 3/4 Dress Rehearsal
Wednesdays 28 <sup>th</sup> March @ 6pm	Year 3/4 Evening production
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of term - <b>Finish at 1.30pm</b>
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Summer term begins - children return to school

## Assemblies

Parents are invited to their child's class assembly at 9am. Year 3 and Year 4 will not be sharing an assembly as they will be performing an end of term production.

Date	Class	
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 6	Parent
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Year 5	Parent
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1	Parent
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2	Parent
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Reception	Parent

## Spring Term 2018

Children back to school – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Half-term – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Children back to school – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February to Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## Summer Term 2018

Children back to school – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018

May Bank Holiday – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May – INSET Day

Half-term – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

Children back to school – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018