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5th December

Dear Families,

This is a very busy time for us in school. The children in Reception Year 1 and Year 2 have been rehearsing their performance for our Nativity which takes place next week. The rest of the school have been fabulous in giving their support with changes to where PE and music sessions are taking place and trying their best to eat at lunchtime without making too much mess. Thank you to families who have brought in costumes and other bits and bobs to support. Please note- there are now no more changes that can be made to ticket requests.

The children are all working very hard on their learning too. Year 6 have sat tests this week in maths and reading. Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 have also completed assessments over the last 2 weeks. Reception and Year 1 children are working hard on their phonics with assessments taking place prior to the end of term. Teachers in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are attending a writing moderation session next week at Dereham Junior School so we can share expertise and look at children's writing across our two schools. As well as reading, writing and maths, the children are having lots of fun learning about their foundation subjects.

Live assembly from Antarctica.

Children in year 5 took part in a historically significant event today. They joined over 4200 other schools in the first ever live streamed assembly broadcast from Antarctica- over 600 miles away. Robert Swan OBE, the first person in history to walk to both the North and South Poles and Jenny Cooke, both founders of the 2041 School Charity, shared stories from the ice, the importance of protecting our frozen continent and inspired our pupils to become Champions of Antarctica. Thousands of questions were posted in for Robert Swan to answer including questions on distance, landscapes, penguin behaviours, coping with the cold and having the strength to keep going. The assembly also included a video from Antarctica herself which was truly awe inspiring. We learnt how this huge ice continent is twice the size of Australia and owned by us all. We reflected on how this part of our world remained undiscovered for many years and how it represents a place of peace and a truly natural environment. We will certainly be following this assembly up and looking at how our Eco Council can take on some of these aspects to support us to become **Champions of Antarctica**.

Eco Council

Miss Hudson announced our new Eco Council today in our Celebration Worship. Several children expressed an interest for this- completing applications and sharing speeches in class. Our School Eco Council is a new development from January 2026 and builds on the work of our Eco Warriors. Our Eco Council is made up of 2 representatives from each class. They will bring together the ideas from each class to our meetings and lead actions in our school as part of our Climate Action Plan. Our Eco Councillors were awarded their badges in assembly this morning and we are looking forward to our first meeting next term.

Otters' After School Club art competition:

Just before the October Half Term, Otters' were invited to join a national art competition. The children all got involved and submitted their entries. Mrs Mueller and Mrs Davies were very proud to receive a letter which stated that all 10 of the entries will be published on the 12th of January and that the school will be sent a copy of the book with the children's art work in it. Well done Otters! 🌟 We celebrated their achievement in assembly this morning where the children were presented with certificates.

'With knowledge anything is possible'

Our vision: To inspire children, their families and staff to **SHINE LEARN BELIEVE BELONG** so our children achieve their very best, leaving us as confident, happy resilient learners.



Swaffham Christmas Tree Festival: 𐄂

As part of the annual Christmas Tree Festival, our school has a tree on display at St Peter St Paul Church. Every class has made decorations and Mrs Oxborough has got as many as she can hanging from the tree. Families can visit the Christmas Tree Festival at St Peter St Paul Church up until this Sunday- the 7th of December.

PTFA:

As you will have seen on Dojo, the PTFA are running a competition to design a Christmas Jumper. The prize is a family ticket for 4 to see Aladdin at the Princess Theatre in Hunstanton in December. The competition is running up until Wednesday the 10th of December. Completed designs need to be handed to a member of the PTFA. They will be outside in the gazebo after school on Wednesday the 10th of December to collect entries in- £1 per entry. All funds raised will go to the PTFA. The PTFA are a fantastic group of parents, teachers and friends of the school who give up their time to arrange events and raise funds to support our school. If you would like to join or have time to be able to support some of these events then please let Mrs Purple in the school office know and she can pass this onto the PTFA.

Makaton Sign of the Week:

'I notice'. Mrs Rice has shared this on Dojo. This is the third phrase that we use daily as part of our Behaviour Policy. So, we now have, 'I wonder', 'I notice', 'I imagine' as well as 'Ready', 'Respectful' and 'Safe' and all the others we have been learning this term. We are going to consolidate all of these next term and focus on using these signs as part of our daily interactions to support our policy on inclusion.

Up and coming events:

Closing date: Wednesday 10 th December.	PTFA Design your own Christmas Jumper' competition £1.00 entry. All entries to be handed to PTFA after school on Wednesday the 10 th of December- in the gazebo.
Tuesday 9 th December 1.45pm	EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Performance 1 to families Ticket only event- details are on DOJO
Wednesday 10 th December 9.30am	EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Performance 2 to families Ticket only event- details are on DOJO
Thursday 11 th December 1.45am	EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Performance 3 to families Ticket only event- details are on DOJO
Friday the 12 th December	Year 2 Panto Trip
Wednesday the 17 th of December	School Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day. Please note that the only food that can be ordered this day is a Christmas Lunch. Children can bring in a packed lunch if they prefer. Children and staff are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper for the day or decorate a jumper/ top in a Christmas theme to wear.
Friday the 19 th of December	End of Term Citation Assembly Last day of school
20 th December- 5 th January	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday the 6 th of January	First day back

I hope you have a lovely weekend. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs N Kaye



Headteacher

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