



Dear Parents/Carers,

There has been a lot going on over the past couple of weeks and staff and children are all very tired – it's been a long term. I think we are all looking forward to 3:30pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>. However this is an exciting time of year to be in school. As I write this, Robin and Woodpecker classes have completed one afternoon performance of 'Strike a Light!', their Nativity, and are due to undertake their evening performance tonight. Unfortunately I wasn't able to be there yesterday afternoon due to a meeting, but had really great reports and comments from parents who were there. (I did put all the chairs away afterwards for them!) I am very much looking forward to seeing the final polished performance tonight. Some of my best memories as a Headteacher are of school nativities - in my previous school, the donkey got unintentionally tangled up in a fishing rod and line to the great amusement of him and everyone else, and poor baby Jesus was swung round by his ankle by an over enthusiastic Mary! I am sure our children will do another fantastic job tonight and there will be plenty of 'Ahhhh' moments! Mrs Burrough and Miss West have done a great job over the last few weeks get the performance ready.

Our choir have again done brilliantly well in the BBC Radio Devon carol competition. This year we came second but as a school of currently 117 children, we feel that this was exceptional against two schools placed in the top 3 with 400 and 600 children and lots of families to vote for them. We felt a little bit down for 5 minutes being just pipped at the post again this year but we really must celebrate the children's marvellous achievement and congratulate Mrs Burrough (and her Mum who often comes in to play the piano) for the continuing high standard the choir reaches.

We have great news about our IT facilities in school. We have now purchased 30 laptops for use by the children and these will be set up and stored on lockable charging trolleys so that they can be wheeled into classrooms for use. We have also ordered a new server (which is desperately needed to store all of the children's and teachers' work) and some of our data projectors are being replaced. We are also currently in the process of purchasing a Computing scheme and resources so that this can be taught effectively from next term. A large proportion of the funding (for the children's laptops and trolleys) has been provided by the PTFA – the money they raised originally for the installation of the Trim Trail before we received a Lottery Grant. CAST (our Multi Academy Trust) has also paid towards some of the equipment. Many thanks to the PTFA for funding this and to CAST for topping up the funding where needed. So from January, we should have all of this up and running for the children to use – at long last!

### **School Crossing Patrol**

You may have already been approached by Mr Swift, our lovely crossing patrol man, about the intention of Devon County Council to get rid of all crossing patrols in order to save money. The 80 school crossing patrols in Devon costs the County Council £200,000 a year,

with a further £150,000 a year spent on support, training and administration. This is part of the County Council's need to make £110 million of savings over the next four years. The County Council does not have a statutory duty to provide crossing patrols and is therefore looking at school communities paying for these in the future, with administration by a separate organisation. Devon County Council would retain the legal duty to ensure adequate support and training to appropriate standards.

As a school, we do not currently have the budget to pay for our own crossing patrol and in any case, would need to negotiate and share this cost with other schools whose pupils use the service. The County Council states that 'Ultimately, the responsibility of getting children to school rests with parents, but we fully accept that the presence of patrols plays a part in the travel choices made by parents.'

The County Council is currently running a consultation, which closes on 8 January 2016. Please do go on line at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/crossing/patrol> to share your views, or write to Dave Black, Head of Service, Devon County Council, School Crossing Patrol Service, ABG Lucombe House, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QD. You can also email [andrew.eagles@devon.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.eagles@devon.gov.uk)

### **Admission to Primary School 2016/2017**

On 15 November, the online application facility will open for children born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 for entry to Reception class in September 2016. The deadline for applications is **15 January 2016**. Please go to [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline)

### **Situations Vacant**

Our Governing Body is looking to appoint a Clerk to take up post as soon as possible to provide administrative and secretarial support for committee and Governing Body meetings for approximately 300 hours per academic year. The closing date for applications 16 December. For more information, please speak to Mrs Newcombe or Mrs Brett.

Plymouth CAST Multi-Academy Trust have the following vacancies :

- Finance Support Officer position based in the Dorset area. Part-time 3 days per week Closing date 10 December, interview date 17 December.
- HR Adviser positions in Cornwall, Devon and Dorset. Part time 2/3 days per week Closing date 10 December. Interview date 16 December.

For more information please speak to Mrs Newcombe or Mrs Brett.

### **Dates for your diary**

Wednesday 16 December	Carol Service 2pm
Friday 18 December	Whole School Mass at 9.15 – all are welcome
Monday 4 January	INSET Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 5 January	Children return to school



### **Special Person**

	<b>w/e 27/11</b>	<b>w/e 04/12</b>
<b><i>Robins</i></b>	Kyle V	Henri M
<b><i>Woodpeckers</i></b>	Rudy P	Jasmine W
<b><i>Owls</i></b>	Fletcher D	Shine G
<b><i>Kestrels</i></b>	Oriel C	Lucy C
<b><i>Eagles</i></b>	Emily S	Iris C



**Attendance**

Week ending 27 November 92.29%

Week ending 4 December 95.85%

Our attendance target is **96.2%**



With best wishes,

Handwritten signature of Angela Herrera in blue ink.

Mrs Angela Herrera  
Headteacher