



Urchfont C. E. Primary School

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Dear Parents,

As another busy term comes to an end, I once again write my end of term letter to you. The weeks have truly sped by, with lots of superb events happening.

We began the term with a whole school Music focus week. We were treated to a music assembly where pupils sang and/or played musical instruments that they are learning to play as well as a performance by an ensemble from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. It was a real treat and my thanks goes to Mrs Groves for organising the whole week. We also focused on Remembrance in the first weeks of term and each child made a poppy and contributed to an art display in the library. The Upper School classes have been out and about on trips this term which supports their themed learning. Woodpeckers visited Avebury and Owls Bovington Tank Museum. Each class had a super time and came back to school full of enthusiasm and extra knowledge. These visits are invaluable and my thanks goes to parents for supporting these events. Year 6 have also been busy with their Bikeability course. They all worked very hard and passed the course. The instructor was very complimentary on their behaviour and attitude.

On the sporting front, Owls have again been receiving hockey lessons from Dauntseys Outreach. We entered two teams in the end of term competition. They did us proud and played valiantly as a team. This resulted in both the "A" and "B" teams achieving the silver medal positions and only lost in the finals. The netball team have played a number of matches in the H5 league and have gone from strength to strength as the term has progressed and won their last match 17-2! Whenever we play any sport, our children always try their best and we are very proud of all who represent the school.

On the musical front, EYFS and Key Stage 1 performed their Nativity and Christmas show last week – 'Shine Star Shine' for Robins and 'Santa on Strike' for Chaffinches. They were all great, the singing was superb and those with speaking parts were loud and clear (after lots of practise). My thanks go to all the staff especially Mrs Coulson, Mrs Thomson, Mrs Pottinger, Mrs Goodman and Mrs Underwood, for their patience and endurance over the last few weeks practising with the children.



Other Christmas events included the, Christmas Lunch, Christingle Service, the USSPA Disco, Carol Evening and the Elf Walk. The retiring collection at the end of the KS 1 Nativity shows totalled £106.25 and all of which will be donated to The Children's Society and the Elf Walk has currently raised £486, both of which are wonderful amounts. We hope the children have enjoyed the week's activities in addition to their class Christmas activities.

I appreciate that many children might receive electronic devices such as i-pads, tablets or mobile phones as presents at this time of year. It has recently been reported to me by one of our parents, of a concerning incident where some of our children were using a notorious chatroom called "Tic Toc" with alarming consequences. Therefore, I urge all parents to place the appropriate parental restrictions/ controls onto these devices and to check what sites your child visits when using the internet including playing games on devices such as the PS2 and X-box. For any parent requiring e-safety advice, please visit our website, where we have placed key information and links to websites where you can check the suitability of games, websites and chatrooms that your child might want to use.

On a happier note, I am delighted to inform you that we did exceptionally well in the KS2 League Tables this year. In the subject progress measures which all outside agencies judge a school by including OFSTEd, Urchfont school topped the Wiltshire league table in Reading, were sixth in Writing and third in Maths. If you would like to look at the league tables, please visit <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education>. I hope you appreciate that I feel Urchfont is special not only because we value academic achievement but also because of all the other events and activities we do. I am an extremely proud Head Teacher as I write this.

And finally, the staff and I would like to wish you and your families a happy, restful and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Carol Talbot
(Head Teacher)

