

THE GRAPEVINE

THONGSLEY FIELDS PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

SEASONS GREETINGS!

BY MR JONES, HEADTEACHER

Wow, that has been a long term! Despite the exhausted minds and bodies, there have been so many reminders during the last few weeks of what this time of year represents for so many. In assemblies, we have shared examples of how we show HOPE, JOY, PEACE and LOVE towards others - just the little everyday things that mean so much. I am always so proud of the thoughts and ideas that our children show - thinking of others before themselves, giving rather than taking.

We've had several trips out recently too with Y3/4 visiting Burwell House for three days and Y5/6 taking part in the fabulous Faith Tour. The comments received from members of the public and those helping to organise and support these visits have been full of praise - the respect shown, the manners and politeness towards others and the intelligent questions, answers and thoughts shared - a huge well done to all! Our choir have been out and about as usual bringing some Christmas joy to others in our community. We've also had various sporting endeavours to celebrate over the past few weeks where despite some stiff opposition, the resilience, tenacity and fantastic teamwork displayed has been second-to-none. I know you'll join me in saying a huge thank you to the staff who have worked tirelessly again this term to make our school such an amazing place to be! Happy Holidays to all!



Enjoying a delicious Christmas Dinner

TERM DATES

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| Last day of term | 20/12 |
| Staff Training Day (SCHOOL CLOSED) | 3/1 |
| Back to School | 4/1 |
| National Dental Check (Ash Class) | 11/1 |
| HSSP Panathlon (KS2) | 16/1 |
| Young Voices Concert (Birmingham) | 25/1 |
| KS1 Sleepover | 2/2 |
| Parent Consultations (TBC) | 14/2 & 15/2 |
| Half Term Holiday | 19/2 - 23/2 |
| Bookish Fortnight | 26/2 - 8/3 |
| PGL Residential (Y5/6) | 28/2 - 1/3 |

More details and other diary dates will be available soon.



Celebrating Christingle with Year 5/6.



Making 'smelly cocktails' outdoors at Burwell.



Homemade Christmas baubles.



"Christmas isn't a season – it's a feeling."

- Edna Ferber

NEWS IN BRIEF

FROM TEAM THONGSLEY

GOVERNOR VACANCY

We have a vacancy for a governor to join our Local Advisory Board. A letter was sent out last week with more information. If you are interested or have any questions please arrange to speak to Mr Jones.

UNIFORM

Thank you to all those who ensure that the correct items are being worn everyday including for PE. The school office has stock of the very smart looking white polo shirts, navy blue PE t-shirts and jumpers with our logo. We also have stock of good quality seconds that make for excellent spares. More information is available on our [website](#). Speak to a member of staff in confidence if you are struggling with anything.

FESTIVE BAUBLE CHALLENGE

We held our now traditional Christmas Bauble Challenge again this year to design and make a festive bauble to decorate all of our Christmas trees. Each class is assigned one of our school family values: Compassion, Independence, Resilience, Cooperation, Thankfulness, Respect, Patience, Generosity, Honesty and Kindness. All of the trees look amazing as always!

PERFORMANCES!

Wow, what a lively couple of weeks for both children and staff! From learning festive lyrics and funny actions, sizing up and adjusting performance outfits, setting up the school stage and children learning their lines. This season's festive performances have been fantastic - thank you to all those who came along in support!

OTHER NEWS & REMINDERS!

FROM TEAM THONGSLEY

FAITH TOUR

As part of their RE curriculum, Year 5/6 had a great opportunity last week to visit a variety of religious places of worship: a Sikh Gurdwara, a Islamic Mosque and a Christian Church. Everyone represented our school values beautifully, listening intently to the Gyani, the Imam and the Priest and asking thoughtful and insightful questions - definitely a visit we will be repeating!

APPLICATIONS FOR RECEPTION PLACES

Have you applied for your child's Reception school place for September 2024? The deadline is 15th January 2024 and any applications submitted after this date will be classed as a late application. [Click here](#) to apply or find out more.

BURWELL & BURWELL AT HOME

Y3/4 had a marvellous time last week - if a little wet, muddy and sometimes chilly! There was lots of team building, problem solving, learning to look after each other, developing their independence, crafting with clay, enamelling and for some of those at Burwell House, sleeping away from home for the very first time! Well done all!

ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

School gates open from 8:40am so don't be late! Gates close at 8:55am and anyone arriving after this time must enter via the school office with their parent or carer. Routine medical and dental appointments must be outside of school hours.

DATE TO REMEMBER!

Back to school - Thursday 4th January 2024.



Reindeers in the Santa Dash!



Marvelous Science experiments in Oak.



Just one of the many Christmas 'Trees' around school this year.