



Newsletter 7

9 December 2016

Dear Parents,

The wonderful Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 plays last week were the perfect way to start the festive season and this week the delicious smells wafting through the school were a tasty reminder of the delights of the festive season ahead!

Huge thanks to the parents and Friends Association of Roundwood Primary for their efficiency in planning this week's Christmas lunch – the service was seamless and the atmosphere in school was lovely and so was the food! Well done too to the Key Stage 2 children and staff for this morning's Carol Service. Mrs Burch, Mrs Crowley and Mrs Wakeman planned a wonderful service; well done to the choir, musicians and readers for their contributions too. Thanks also go to Reverend Stamp for making us all feel so welcome at St Nicholas church – more detail below.

This week we have been visited by our two of our partners from Herts For Learning. The first visitor was our Hertfordshire Schools' Improvement Partner, Marie Harvey, who interrogates the school's attainment and progress results as well as discussing with the school leadership team and Governors the standards of teaching and learning in the school and its priorities for development. We are delighted to report that she was very complementary about the school's current position and praised the work of both the staff team and the pupils.

Mrs Brennan and Mrs Crowley have also spent time this week with a Teaching and Learning Advisor from HfL for Literacy who studied children's books, teachers' planning and assessment results as part of our programme of continual development. She too was very impressed with the standards of children's work in all areas of the school and has given us some helpful advice on how to further develop writing across different age groups.

On a quick practical note, although the weather has been milder this week, please do ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for both playtimes and PE lessons. Our site is very exposed, particularly for the Key Stage 2 children, and we ask they are suitably wrapped up against the elements. In addition, further on in this newsletter is information about how we will communicate with you in the event of a school closure, including information about the new 'Everbridge' notification system.

I wish you all a relaxing weekend.

Kind regards,

Suzanne Webb
Headteacher

Top Bananas

These children received Bananas Awards last week for 'Improving'

C1	Niall	C12	Robert (reading)	C2	Freya (writing)
C3	Ashton (class participation)	C34	Kaleb (reading and working more independently)	C4	The whole class (concentration and listening)
C5	Heather (writing, extending sentences and using effective language)	C56	Scott (attitude to learning)	C6	Teddy (writing)

These children received Bananas Awards this week for 'Being Courteous'

C1	Amelia	C12	Eric	C2	Henri
C3	Arthur	C34	Alex	C4	Logan
C5	Sidrah	C56	Lucy	C6	Charlie

Staffing Update

Mrs Dychoff who has worked with us for the past year as a Learning Support Assistant will be leaving us at the end of term to take up a position working with younger children. We thank her for the support she has shown our pupils and wish her every success at her new school.

Sadly Mrs Lewis our school librarian will also be leaving in the New Year. Although she has only been here for a short while, she has continued to build on our wonderful library which is so well loved by the children and her displays and reading initiatives have had a huge impact across the school. She is needing to increase her hours at St Albans Abbey, where she also works, following their successful Lottery grant and we wish her luck in her bigger role!

Both these roles are currently being advertised on the Teach in Herts website – do please take a look if you think you have the skills and experience required to join our team. <https://www.teachinherts.com/>

Year 3 and 4 Visit to St Albans Abbey

Last week year 3 and 4 went to St Albans Abbey. Whilst there the children took part in the Alban trail. They acted out the story of Alban, the Roman who gave his life to save a Christian priest. They took it in turns to play roles as various Romans including soldiers, Alban and market workers working at the forum. The children loved dressing up and playing their various different parts in the retelling of the story. During the trip the children made mosaics and used small tiles to create patterns. Everyone had a wonderful day.

Mrs Wakeman, Miss Barltrop, Mrs Crisp

Library News

Please can children return borrowed books to the Library by Thursday 15th December so we can check stock and make sure everything's tidy and ready for the new term. Thanks very much. *Mrs Lewis*

Poppy Appeal

I am pleased to advise that £134.72 was raised for the Poppy Appeal this year.

Foundation Christmas Play

The children put on a fantastic show last Thursday in the Nativity. We are very proud of how brave they were in front of such a big audience. Thank you for your support with costumes, they looked brilliant! Mrs Hamilton-Watson has taken photos of all of the children in their costumes and they will be available soon.
Foundation team



KSI Christmas Play

Last week, KSI performed their Christmas play, 'Prickly Hay', a nativity musical with a hoedown flavour! The children had worked really hard learning the songs and their lines, and they gave a great performance. They sang beautifully and played their parts well - a super start to the Christmas festivities!



Carol Service

At 9.30 this morning the KS2 arrived at St Nicholas Church for the Roundwood Primary School Carol Service. The 'early bird' school orchestra performed 'Two at twilight' while the school settled, and the service started beautifully with a group of Year 6 girls singing the first verse of Once in Royal . Charlie, Leo and Robbie were our kings this year and sang We Three Kings perfectly. The Upper KS2 sang 'A great light' with saxophone, piano and drum accompaniment, and the Lower KS2 sang a jazzy arrangement of 'Unto us a boy is born' with chime bars, tambourines and woodblocks. The Revd Cannon Dennis Stamps was very welcoming and helped the children by introducing the songs and encouraging the readers who were not phased at all by the high pulpit. Christingles were brought up during 'Love shine a light' to remind us that Jesus Christ brings light into the whole world at Christmas time. Well done KS2 and teachers it was a very special hour together. *Mrs Burch*

Google Expeditions



On Monday, 28th November, we were delighted to be joined by Google for a day of expeditions. Expeditions is a new product that allows teachers to take their classes on virtual field trips, immersing students in experiences that bring abstract concepts to life and giving students a deeper understanding of the world beyond the classroom. The Wildlife Conservation Society, PBS, the American Museum of Natural History, the Planetary Society, and the Palace of Versailles contributed to developing the

curriculum for students. These trips are collections of virtual reality panoramas — 360° photo spheres, 3D images and video, ambient sounds — annotated with details, points of interest, and questions that make them easy to integrate into curriculum already used in schools. While nothing replaces hopping on the bus for a field trip, Expeditions provide an unparalleled opportunity for supplemental learning.

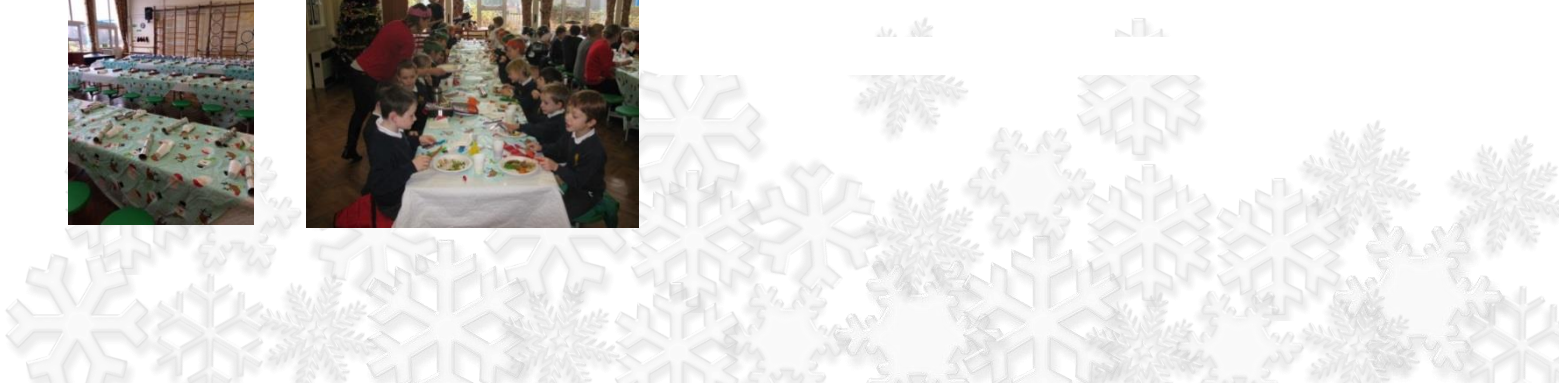
In KS2 we were able to run 3D expeditions to far flung destinations. For years 5 and 6, these destinations included a tour of Rio and the Amazon, a trip into space and one under the sea. Year 3 and 4 started their trip a little closer to home with a tour of the Colosseum and Pantheon, they too then ventured into space and to the Great Barrier Reef. As the Google Cardboard technology is not recommended for under 7s, KSI were treated to a 2D expedition with some intrepid explorers visiting the North Pole. The children very much enjoyed their day. Thank you to Mrs James who helped run the expeditions. *Miss Barltrop*

Roundwood Park Lunches

If you would like your child to have a meal prepared by the Roundwood Park kitchens for the Spring Term please remember the payment deadline is Wednesday 14th December.

Christmas Lunch

Thank you to the Friends for a delicious Christmas lunch!



Reception trip to St Albans Cathedral



Reception had a fantastic school trip to St Albans Cathedral on Monday. They participated in a Christmas trail where they learnt all about Christmas and Advent. During this they explored the tradition of sending cards and were given the opportunity to act out the Christmas story using finger puppets which was great fun! The children also took part in a stained glass window workshop where they made their own stained glass windows which are now displayed on the windows in our classroom and look beautiful.



Mrs Cirillo

New Clubs at Roundwood for January 2017

A reminder that the new breakfast club run by Joustlers will be opening its doors from 7.30am Monday 9th January 2017. Spaces are filling up fast – for more information, please see our Community newsletter of 5th December or contact Jenny on 01707 894650 or 07580076045.

Active Create will be running a weekly musical theatre group at Roundwood from Thursday 19th January 2017 (3.05pm – 4.05pm). Tilly and Gemma visited us on Tuesday this week to give the children a taste of what they do. Booking forms and information are available in the Community newsletter of 06/12/2016 or contact Sophie on 01438 831281.

Christmas Jumper Day

A reminder that on Friday 16th December we will be supporting Save the Children's 'Christmas jumper day.' On this day children can come to school wearing a Christmas jumper for a suggested donation of £2. We ask that they wear their school uniform on their bottom half. *Mrs Cirillo and the School Council*

Car Engines left running

We have been approached by a concerned parent who has noticed that other parents, whilst waiting in their car for their child to finish school, parents are leaving their car engine running. To help reduce emissions, please could we ask that engines are turned off whenever possible when waiting.

Christmas Fair

Thanks to everyone who came along and supported our Christmas Fair - we raised a huge **£4,700** in just one afternoon! Many thanks to the Friends and to the many parents and teachers who gave up their time, both on the day and in the run up to the Fair - we're super grateful for your help, as ever. *The Friends*

Easyfundraising

Are you using easyfundraising yet when doing your online shopping? It takes just a couple of minutes to set up, then when you shop in one of the 3,139 participating retailers, a percentage of your spend goes directly to Roundwood Primary. Retailers include Amazon, John Lewis, M&S, eBay, Debenhams and a whole host of others. So far 29 people are registered and have raised **£86** for the school between them just by doing their usual shopping.

Head to <https://new.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofroundwoodprimary> and follow the simple instructions to sign up. Then browse through the 3,138 shops and sites registered, who will pay Roundwood Primary commission on the purchases you make.

So please register today and make some free money for the school whilst doing your Christmas shopping!
The Friends



School Closures

In exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to close the school during normal hours. In these instances i.e. due to severe weather conditions, we shall inform parents by the following means:

BBC Three Counties Radio

92.1 FM or 630 AM

Mercury FM

97.5 - 102.7FM

Website

www.roundwoodprimary.herts.sch.uk

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/RoundwoodPS>

Herts County Council's website

<https://www.imodus.com/summary.aspx?company=99>

Schools Closure Notification System - Parental Sign Up

Parents can now sign up to receive messages by SMS and email sent directly from school about closures. To sign up, use the following link:

<http://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489>

This link will direct you to the 'Sign Up' page where you should click on the 'sign up' button located at the top right hand side of the page on the grey strip and from there follow the instructions. It should take no more than 5 minutes to register and you can edit your information at any time should you change your mobile number or email address.

If you have children at more than one school you can register for those schools too in a single registration process by selecting all schools you have children at.

