

7 December 2018

No 013

Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents

It is with great sadness and mixed feelings that I write my final newsletter to you as Interim Headteacher of St John's. I joined the school in January and very quickly felt part of this lovely and very special church school community. Thank you for welcoming me and supporting me to carry out decisions in the best interests of the children.

There have been many special memories made over the last year. I will always remember the unique openness of the children of Churt and how articulate they are in talking about their learning.

It has been a pleasure to lead this school with your support and commitment. I am delighted that the school is now in a position to become part of an academy, The Good Shepherd Trust, like other local schools such as Waverley Abbey and South Farnham and look forward to many exciting opportunities in the future. Throughout my years in leadership and management, I have always asked the question: Why are we doing this? What impact will this decision have on the children? Ultimately, it is important to remember that the children are at the heart of all decision making to provide high quality teaching and learning.

I look forward, in my new role in the Diocese, following the journey of St John's. I am confident that you will all pull together as an amazing school family and support Marion Stevens in her new leadership role along with the new Executive Headteacher.

Jo Blagden

Jo Blagden, our School Business Manager, will be leaving our school at Christmas. Jo has shown outstanding commitment to our school over the years and has gone above and beyond to help the school in so many ways in addition to her role. Jo made her decision to leave in the middle of this year as she wishes to have the opportunity to retire from her current role and enjoy travelling in all sorts of exciting places. The Good Shepherd Trust has recently secured a replacement for Jo Blagden and this appointment will be a seamless transition in which we can share adult resources between other schools.

I am sure you will have an opportunity to say goodbye to Jo nearer to the end of term but before I leave I'd like to say on behalf of all the staff and governors, a very big thank you for all her work in her counting house and beyond :)

Christmas Productions and Services

I am sure you will all appreciate how much work the children put into creating a production at this time of year and how they enjoy our school's contribution to the Christingle Service in church at the end of term.

Please can we ask parents with toddlers and very young children to keep them from wandering in front of the children and to keep the noise level under control? This can be a huge distraction for our children and it can potentially spoil very special performances. During our Christmas performances in the school hall, please can parents with young toddlers and babies take the opportunity to sit towards the back of the hall and feel free to take them out into the foyer if necessary? The Christmas production on Wednesday 12th is recorded and it would also be appreciated that babies and young children are kept with their parents and the noise level is kept to a minimum. Your help and support would be appreciated for the sake of our children being able to perform confidently without distractions. Thank you.

Postal Service

There will be a postal service available in the library from next week. This will give the children an opportunity to send Christmas cards to their friends. We are always looking for meaningful opportunities for the children to write, from the very youngest writing their names correctly, to the eldest writing kind messages in the cards. There will be a postal sack for each class so the children will be asked to place their cards into the correct class post bag. They can then be distributed within the class at suitable times.

Finally I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and an exciting new year.

Best wishes
Gillian Morris

Dates Box:

Tues, 11 Dec	2.00pm	Christmas Play - further details to follow
Wed, 12 Dec	2.00pm	Christmas Play - further details to follow
Thurs, 13 Dec	6.30pm	Christmas Play - further details to follow
Fri, 15 Dec	Children may arrive at school any time up to 10.00am	
Tues, 18 Dec	Christmas "Fun Day" - further details to follow	
Wed, 19 Dec	9.00am 2.00pm	Christingle Service - further details to follow Last day of Autumn Term - school closes for the Christmas break
Thurs, 03/01/19	INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED	
Fri, 04/01/19	INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED	
Mon, 07/01/19	8.30am	First day of Spring Term 2019
Fri, 15/02/19	Last day of half-term - school closes for 1 week	
Mon, 25/02/19	8.30am	First day after half-term