



NEWSLETTER



Friday 13th December

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! And the children have been enjoying the festivities this week. Tuesday saw our whole school trip to the panto and the children really enjoyed the performance of Dick Whittington. It was lovely for them to see Johnny on stage as a rat – he did a great job! On Thursday we also enjoyed our Christmas lunch and parties – thank you to all of the staff who helped to serve and ensure that the children had a fantastic afternoon. Everyone in school is starting to feel tired as we head towards the end of term so I hope you can enjoy a restful weekend before we finish the term in style! This is our final newsletter for 2019 so I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. I look forward to welcoming you all back safe and sound in 2020. Happy Christmas!

Mrs L Watts, Acting Headteacher

This week in class...

Little Brown Hare: What happens when you ask a 3 year old if they would like to make a Christmas wreath... ..the answer you get is "no, I want a dinosaur."! At Little Brown Hare we would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas.



Blackbirds: This week Blackbirds have been learning about the artist Peter Thorpe and his space themed artwork. They have been recreating some of his work using abstract backgrounds and space themed drawings. The children had a lovely time at the pantomime and at their Christmas party and we have been very proud of their behaviour at both these events. We are now winding down for Christmas and looking forward to Christmas crafts next week.

Wagtails: This week in Wagtails, we have been putting our forces knowledge to good use by designing a magnetic arm for the Mars rover. NASA had set us the challenge of finding ways to collect large samples that contain high levels of iron, cobalt and nickel from the surface of. The children first had to make a concept game to see if magnets were a viable method of collecting and sorting magnetic and non-magnetic samples. They then went on to design some incredibly inventive contraptions by applying their knowledge of magnetic fields and gravity.

Skylarks: After such a wonderful experience at the Opera Skylarks have been challenged to write their own love poems! These are going to be sent off to Glyndebourne - let's see what response we get! The children have been grappling with their multiplication this week deciding on which methods work best; written column, grid or mental calculations. Our Big 'Q' (Would you rather be rich or happy?) led to some interesting discussions concluding with the children feeling 'richness' is more about quality of life, friends, family and experiences rather than monetary wealth. Their rocket modelling is nearing completion so it will be 5,4,3,2,1 blast off soon. They all loved having their full day in the forest with lots of fun, eating and games too! Thanks to Nicola Newt and her team for organising such a lovely day.



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A message from Mrs Hamilton

Dear Parents,

This has been a difficult note to write to you all, but after 6 years as Headteacher, first at Northrepps and then Erpingham, it is time for me to take the next step in my career.

There is a sadness in my heart, as I hand over the reins as Executive Head, but also great excitement for Laura, as I know that she is going to be an amazing leader for the federation... she is so passionate about our schools; our flexi provision, our pre-schools and our Forest School. Over the past couple of years, she has worked tirelessly to develop our exciting immersive curriculum and is now able to deliver this outstanding work as the new Executive Head. She has my very best wishes!!

It has been an absolute pleasure for me to nurture and develop our federation over the past few years and to help ensure the sustainability of our pre-schools and schools. You all know how passionate I am about the importance of small rural schools to the community and our governing body is also committed to making sure our federation offers the very best education for our children, by standing out from the crowd, providing a unique alternative to other, mainstream schools.

So, I feel I'm leaving you in the very best hands as I continue on my own adventure where I will continue to strive to make a difference to all children through curriculum development and family support.

Wishing you all a restful and merry Christmas,
Angie Hamilton

Thank you! To the Friends for organising another successful film night for the children. Also to those Friends who have given their time over so many lunch breaks to help the children create their secret Christmas presents. We really appreciate their hard work and support.

It's not too late for children to volunteer to be part of the church Christmas Eve service. Mrs Burrell is on the hunt for some willing shepherds, angels and, most importantly, an inn keeper. Please contact school if your child would like to take part. It really is a lovely event and, if your child is involved, you are able to grab a good seat!

Don't forget to come along to the Winter Wonderland on Tuesday evening from 3.15pm until 4.30pm. There are still slots available for you to see Father Christmas – just see Karen. Please can we remind you all that you will be responsible for your children at all times and we ask that you make sure that they are being safe and sensible – especially as it gets dark. Thank you in advance!

Thank you so much to everyone who donated today for Save the Children – we raised £43 which is fantastic for such a small school. Thank you for your generosity.

Random request – we are looking to run electricity over to Little Brown Hare so that they can have a heater for the colder months. The cost of this would be significantly lower if we could dig the trench ourselves. Does anyone know anyone who might be able to help us out with this? It would need to be about 2ft deep and run from the office to the log cabin. If so, please contact Mrs Tuffin. Many thanks in advance!

Thank you to the Friends of Erpingham Primary School who kindly paid for our school trip to the pantomime (Oh yes they did!). Thank you also to everyone who supports the school through buying cakes & refreshments or by attending the Friends' events. We are really grateful for your generosity.





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From the end of term, Mrs Watts' email address will become head@bsf.norfolk.sch.uk

Think of the week

What would be the greatest gift you could give to the world this Christmas?

Dates for your diary...

Tuesday 17th December – Winter Wonderland 3.15 – 4.30pm

Wednesday 18th December - Messy Church – 2pm END OF TERM!

Monday 6th January – Back to School

Tuesday 7th January – Flu immunisations YR – 6

Friday 17th January – Skylarks swimming

Thursday 30th January – Family Learning afternoon

Friday 31st January – Skylarks swimming

Wednesday 12th February – Wagtails Forest School immersion day

Friday 14th February – **Last** swimming for Skylarks

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February – half-term

