



St George's C of E School  
FRIDAY NEWS  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

At this time of year, we think about what Christmas means to us at St George's. Our Core Christian Values encapsulate the very nature of our school and our community. This is something I notice, every day, as I walk around our school. Children are keen to help each other, whether it be with their learning or if they fall over in the playground. The kindness amongst pupils, staff, parents and governors is tangible but this week in particular we have seen Kindness, Perseverance and Thankfulness in abundance!

Our children have continued to learn with a smile on their faces despite the current restrictions we have in place; we have seen kindness throughout school with lovely messages and gifts for the staffroom being sent in to keep us all going and kind get well wishes given to everyone who is or has been self-isolating.

This week I have been extremely thankful for our amazing staff. It has been a challenging time, but the staff have continued to shine by stepping up to cover all staff absences and ensure face to face learning could continue for our children. It's been exhausting but we have done it.

Covid cases continue to rise in school (as well as the local area) and this week alone we have seen another 17 cases across the school. Our decision (though extremely tough and disappointing) to cancel our usual Christmas events in school has been the right one. Public Health Dorset, informed all schools this week that holding any indoor events, where people are either in close proximity, eating, singing and/or playing wind instruments is considered as 'high risk' and will remain so, until at least the end of the term. The Department for Education has made one small proviso, that made me chuckle, this being if younger children sang quietly and softly, perhaps a small audience could attend a performance. I couldn't help but wonder how many Nativity Plays these people had attended, where the very essence of the production is based on how loudly and forcibly, Reception/Year 1 and Year 2 children can collectively project a version of Little Donkey!

Therefore, please can I ask everyone to continue to be vigilant to symptoms and to test regularly. The vast majority of our cases have been asymptomatic, and it is only through testing that we have been able to identify these. If your child is displaying any symptoms or is unwell please keep them at home until a negative PCR result has been received. I appreciate we are getting closer to Christmas and the one thing we all want is for families to be able to safely spend time together celebrating. We understand that some families are considering taking their children out of school a week before term ends to help protect their family Christmas, and whilst we understand and appreciate the reasons, we are not able to authorise this type of absence.

I am, as is customary at this time of year, reliably informed that there are only 22 sleeps 'til Christmas. I sincerely hope you all have the opportunity to enjoy it with your family and loved ones – and as ever, thank you for your continued support.

**NO HOT MEALS on  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Due to the timing of cancelling the  
Pantomime visit we were not able to change  
ordering of meals due to the cut off dates**

**ALL CHILDREN WILL NEED A PACKED LUNCH**

**★ Christmas Lunch**

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December our Meal supplier Chartwells will be cooking a traditional Christmas Lunch which is available to order at [dorset.mealselector.co.uk](http://dorset.mealselector.co.uk) The Menu and allergen details are available from the office  
Please amend/place your order by  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Changes next week**

**Foxes will have Forest School on Monday  
Squirrels will have Forest School on Tuesday – PE on Monday  
Please remember to bring your change of clothes/wear PE kit**

## Head Teacher's Award



Week ending: 03/12/2021

**William (Hedgehogs)** – for trying super hard to make his writing small, use finger spaces and full stops.

**Bea Mu (Squirrels)** – for being amazing this week in school and concentrating hard and trying her best, as well as being a new big sister to baby Tommy!  
Congratulations to Bea and her family.

**Sophie R (Badgers)** – for having such a good learning attitude and trying her best. She really challenged herself in Maths this week.

**Elliot (Foxes)** - for his hardworking attitude towards all tasks in school.

**WELL DONE!**

## Learnimal Awards



Week ending: 03/12/2021

**Lilly** for being a Questioning Queen Bee

**Dulcie** for being a Concentrating Camel

**Elsie-Brooke** for being a Persevering Penguin

**James** for being a Persevering Penguin



Well Done



### Pupil of the week

Week ending: 03/12/2021

Hedgehogs: **Harry G**

Squirrels: **Joanna**

Badgers: **Jessica**

Foxes: **Bert**

**Well done**

### Bronze Star Awards

Week ending 03/12/21



Georgia May (Y1)  
Oliver (Y2)  
Victoria (Y3)

**Congratulations**

### Attendance

Week ending 03/12/21

Hedgehogs – 97.3%

Squirrels – 97.3%

Badgers – 96.9%

Foxes – 96.9%

This week the winners are

**Hedgehogs & Squirrels**



### Birthdays



**Elsie T (7)**

**Many Happy Returns**

**Friday 10th December**

is

'Christmas Jumper Day'

we would love to have everyone in school wearing a Christmas Jumper

-O-O-O-O-

On **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>**, **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>** and **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December** the children are invited to come to school in "Christmassy" clothes rather than uniform

### House Point Scores

**Sandways**

**936**

**Chaffeymoor**

**899**

**Queen Oak**

**745**

## Hedgehogs News

This week in Hedgehogs it has been lovely to have most of the class back together. We wish anyone at home poorly to get well soon and looking forward to having you back.

In maths we have been looking at one more and one less, the children have been very good as using different objects and maths equipment to work this out!

Year 1's have been doing lots of planning for their diary writing and are starting to write them in best. Reception Hedgehogs have been recalling the sequence of events in detail and starting to write lots of words too. It is lovely to see so many children using their phonics around the classroom!

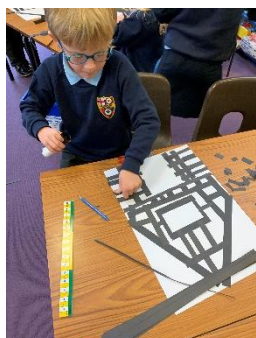
We have been singing lots of Christmas songs for our nativity, if you hear your child practicing, please ask to listen as they are doing a great job!

Have a lovely weekend  
Mrs Ramage and Mrs Nicholls

## Squirrels News

This week has been a very busy one in Squirrels. We began the week by practising our diary writing and then later we became Samuel Pepys writing his diary entries when the Great Fire began to take hold and it was evident he would need to escape – but not before burying his precious cheese and wine in the garden! We have continued to practise our bonds to 100 and our addition and subtraction in maths, together with our Mastering Number sessions daily. In Science we have been finding out more about sound; the children categorised some musical instruments according to high or low pitch (it was very noisy in Squirrels!) and then we talked about the need for ear defenders (!) by some people who use noisy equipment and machinery and we predicted and then experimented with different materials to use in ear defenders, to find out which was best. In Art we made some black and white Tudor houses which are displayed in the classroom and we have also been practising our songs for our Christmas play. Poor Mrs Toy has been poorly all week so we send her our best wishes for a swift recovery.

Mrs Cuff ☺





## Badgers News

In Badgers this week we started to think about what Christmas means to us and different things we do to celebrate it. We got excited thinking about decorations, cards and family gatherings. We then considered the importance of Christmas to Christians. In English we read instructions about how to make a Christingle. We are hoping to make our own Christingle soon but this week we focused on how to structure instructional texts. We then looked at pictures of different craft items and wrote the 'what you need' section focusing on writing a list and using a colon.

In maths we continued comparing fractions and putting fractions on a number-line. We also completed some investigations on used clues to find mystery numbers using our knowledge of fractions.

We went outside and hunted for shadows in Science on Thursday. Fortunately, the sun was shining and we found lots on the playground. We considered how shadows change during different parts of the day due to the position of the sun and earth.

Mrs Shears and Mrs Welshman



## Foxes News

This week Foxes have been running far below normal capacity and it has been very quiet! We have missed all the isolating children. However, the remaining pupils have done lots of learning as usual. In Maths the theme has been shape and measure and the children now have improved skills in calculating perimeter and area of simple and compound shapes. In Forest School they created beautiful wreaths of holly, ivy, conifer sprigs and pine cones; this involved string and wire tying and twisting along with the patience to create many layers to thicken the circle. The children enjoyed wearing them as thorny crowns! In Music we have spent the last two weeks learning 'The Cup Song'. The children have become quite speedy and competitive. This cup song helps with memory, rhythm, coordination and ensemble playing. It is fascinating to see how a cup, your hands and a table can create music.

Get well soon all those at home.



## Christmas Cards

This year due to Covid cases in school we are asking that all Christmas cards for the children in classes come into school by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December so we can place them in quarantine over the weekend ready to give out during the week of Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

## Support the PTFA whilst shopping:

Amazon Smile is a simple way for you to support St George's School Bourton as you shop, at no cost to you! Please visit: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk>

## School Lottery:

The PTFA are also part of a lottery group, to find out more and purchase tickets visit <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk> then search for St George's School, Bourton.

Some more lovely books arrived in School this week.

Thank you



## Gardening Club

Gardening club would like to thank all of the parents that donated their Morrisons 'Good to Grow Tokens' we are busy spending them and will let you know what we have chosen when they arrive in school.

This week we also received a donation of bulbs (red, white and blue) for the children to plant in preparation for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee We are looking forward to a very colourful spring!

## Goodbye Mrs Cuff!

It is with great sadness that we are saying goodbye to Mrs Cuff at the end of this term as she takes a step back from classroom teaching and takes up a new role as a librarian. Mrs Cuff has worked at St George's for the last 3 ½ years teaching children in Hedgehogs and Squirrels and expertly leading RE across the school. We will all miss her very much and wish her all the best in her new position. Her last day with us is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

More information will be sent to Squirrels parents regarding the teaching arrangements from January.

## Christmas Tree Decorations

Thank you to everyone who entered our House Christmas Tree Decoration Competition. The entries were all amazing and we have a beautifully decorated tree. Each entry has earned their house 5 House Points and the following designs have earned 25 House Points.

Hedgehogs: Felicity and Imogen

Squirrels: Georgia May

Badgers: Vita

Foxes: Oliver



Key Stage 1 Christmas Production

## Ralph the Reindeer

Hedgehogs and Squirrels

Due to the prevalence of Covid we are planning on filming the production and uploading it onto Tapestry and TEAMS for families to enjoy watching at home. We hope that you understand the need to keep both pupils and staff safe and reduce the risk of Covid transmission within our school community. Filming will take place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December, please can children bring their costume by **MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**