



Nunney First School
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 7th November 2016
 Newsletter 2

Attached to this newsletter is a separate Christmas calendar, which provides information about the seasonal festivities we can all look forward to. Ahead of being able to give you ALL the details you need on a single sheet of paper that you can pin up and refer to throughout December, I needed to have discussions with several members of the Nunney community and I thank you for your patience whilst this took place.

Dates

November	
Tuesday 15 th	Individual and sibling photographs taken by a professional photographer - details in a separate letter from Mrs Furlong
Thursday 24 th	Parents' Evening 2.30 - 5.30 pm - details below
Thursday 24 th	Parent Forum 6.30 - 7.45 pm - details below
Wednesday 30 th	Parents invited into school to help pupils decorate CDs as decorations for the Christmas tree NCA is providing for the school - 09.00 - 10.30 am - details below
December	Details of Christmas events are provided on an attached Christmas calendar
Friday 16 th	Last day of term 2 for pupils
January	
Tuesday 3 rd	INSET Day (4 of 6)
Wednesday 4 th	First day of term 3 for pupils

INSET Days for 2016 - 2017

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| 1. Thursday 1st September 2016 | 4. Tuesday 3rd January 2017 |
| 2. Friday 2nd September 2016 | 5. Friday 10th February 2017 |
| 3. Monday 31st October 2016 | 6. Monday 24th July 2017 |

New School Email Address

The School has a new email address office@nunneyschool.com

You are welcome to use this to communicate with our Admin Assistant, Laura Furlong. We are in the process of putting together a new look website for Nunney First School, so that information is easier for parents to locate. We hope that this will be ready to go live in January 2017.

November Parents' Consultation Meetings - THURSDAY 24th NOVEMBER

Following on from the opportunity you had in September to meet your child's teacher to discuss their social skills and emotional wellbeing, teachers are now pleased to invite you to meet with them to discuss your child's academic progress and the important next steps for them in their learning. Today, appointment timetables were put up on classroom doors so that you can pop in to choose a convenient time to speak to your child's teacher. Teachers

are offering 10 minute appointments between 2.30 and 5.30 pm. These meetings are really important and I encourage you all to attend. Thank you.

Parent Forum Meeting – Thursday 24th November 6.30 – 7.45 pm

Chair of Governors, Hilary Allom, Executive Headteacher, Sue Heal and Deputy Headteacher, Nicki McCormack warmly invite you to attend the upcoming Parent Forum meeting where we will talk about the new Read, Write Inc reading, spelling and writing programme and how we will retain creativity in the curriculum whilst working hard to raise academic standards as required by Ofsted. Items parents would like to see on the agenda are also welcome. Please pass these to Mrs Furlong in the office at least one working day before the meeting.

This is a meeting for parents and carers. Childcare is not provided. However, if children are old enough to occupy themselves for an hour with toys and games they bring from home, they are welcome to play in the library whilst the Parent Forum group meets in Otter class.

Decorating CDs To Hang On The Outdoor Christmas Tree – parents/carers invited in for the morning to work with children and staff

NCA entered a competition to win £10,000 of Christmas lights for the village. Although the bid didn't win the top prize, it was very strong and won one of a small number of runner-up prizes of £1,000 of Christmas lights. The NCA is kindly funding a very tall Christmas tree to stand in the school playground and will be decorating this with lights to be seen by school pupils, village residents and visitors to Nunney as they pass the school.

The tree will be erected and strung with lights on the morning of Saturday 3rd December. Jeff Smith, who is heading the operation is looking for strong men to assist in this process so if any Dads or male household members have a couple of hours to spare and don't mind helping, please let Mrs Furlong in our school office know. We can then communicate directly with these people about timings etc.

We would also like children to decorate the tree with CDs you no longer require. Please start sending these into school as soon as possible. It would also be helpful if you were able to pick a few CDs up from car boot or jumble sales you happened to be at, if these were on sale at a good price. The more we have, the better the village's tree will look!

On the morning of Wednesday 30th November from 9.00 – 10.30 am we are inviting parents and carers to work with children in school to decorate the CDs. Tinsel, cellophane, parachute fabric, ribbon and other weather resistant materials will be available for children to weave through the holes in the middle of the CDs and decorate with tassels etc. The more creative the better!

In summary, 3 actions to focus on:

1. Can a male household member help to erect the tree on Saturday 3rd December? If so, please let Mrs Andrews or Mrs Furlong know.
2. Please send CDs you no longer require into school as soon as possible. Your child should pass these to their class teacher.
3. If possible, set time aside to come into school between 9.00 and 10.30 am on Wednesday 30th November to help the children and staff decorate CDs to hang on the Christmas tree as decorations.

Kindly note that you **will not** be able to have these CDs back afterward; you should only donate CDs you never want to play again!

Friday Gardening & Wildlife Club Will Become A Nature & Art Club In Term 2

As the weather gets colder and the nights draw in, Mrs Leakey is changing her club so that it fits with the season. Children who attend the club in term 2 will work inside, learning about nature and using this to inspire art work they will do. It costs £2 to attend a session. Please speak to Mrs Furlong in the office if your child would like to continue with or join this club which runs from 3.00 - 4.00 pm each Friday in term 2 **excluding 2nd December** when the Christmas Fair is on.

Christmas Events - Additional Details

Christmas Fair - Friday 2nd December

We open our Christmas celebrations with the School's traditional Christmas Fair. Parents and carers are invited to collect children from their classrooms between 2.30 and 3.00 pm to look round the Fair. Once you have visited the Fair, you are welcome to take your child/children home with you.

Singing round the Christmas tree - Saturday 10th December 6.00 - 7.00 pm

Please encourage everyone you know to come along to this massed singing of traditional carols by our outdoor Christmas tree. This is the final event Mrs Andrews and her team will be organising to celebrate 120 years of Nunney School being open. It would be nice to close the Team's amazing work in style, and to hear and applaud the amazing amount of money they have raised.

Christmas parties for the children - Thursday 15th December in school time

This is a non-uniform day and children can dress in something they enjoy wearing. Teaching Assistants will prepare a buffet party lunch for children including a range of savoury and sweet foods for them to choose from. Please ensure you let Mrs Andrews know about any special dietary requirements.

Father Christmas will be visiting and each child will receive a gift from him, again, kindly support by the NCA.

Games For The Last Day Of Term - Friday 16th December

Children are invited to bring a game of their choice into school to play with their friends on the last afternoon of term. Please do not send your child with electronic or particularly precious or expensive toys as the school cannot be responsible for these. Thank you.

Do you have a child who is due to start school in September 2017 (dob between 01.09.2012 - 31.08.2013) or do you have a child who is currently in Year 4 and due to transfer to a middle school in September 2016 (dob between 01.09.2007 - 1.08.2008)?



If so, you need to apply for a school place before the closing date of **15th January 2017**. For further information you can view the Starting School booklet and apply on line at: www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions. Somerset's Admissions Team is greatly supported by and prefers online applications. However, you do have the right to request a paper application form from Somerset Direct and can do this by phoning 0300 123 2224.

Please be aware, even if you currently have a sibling at this school, or a sibling at a middle school, you **MUST** still make an application. Failure to do so may result in your child not getting a place at your preferred school.

School Attendance

Whilst most pupils at Nunney have good attendance, there are some children whose attendance is very low. This is impacting on the school's overall attendance figure, **which is significantly below (92.5%) the national average for primary schools (96%)**. Attendance is the biggest single factor that impacts on pupil progress; there is evidence to show that attendance below 95% affects children's learning in both the short and longer term.

Please be aware of the following information and kindly work with the school to help raise Nunney's attendance:

- Attendance data for every pupil is stored electronically. As Executive Headteacher, I analyse this each month.
- Mornings and afternoons count as separate sessions, so each day is made up of two sessions.
- Registers close at 8.55 am (ten minutes after the start of the school day). If a pupil arrives at school after registers have closed, an unauthorised absence mark must be entered for the whole session.
- Alarm bells are triggered when termly attendance reports indicate that a pupil's attendance has fallen below 90%. If I am aware of a genuine reason for low attendance such as ill health or exceptional family circumstances, no further action will be taken subject to improve attendance in following terms.
- If there appears to be no rational explanation for attendance figures of 90% or below, the Education Attendance Officer and I will arrange to meet with the parent/s to discuss the situation and will work with them, putting a plan in place to improve attendance.
- If improved attendance is not quickly seen, the Education Attendance Officer works with the family and the school to produce a formal plan to improve attendance. If this does not bring success, Education Attendance Officers may decide to start legal proceedings with the aim of improving a child's attendance.
- Families can request term time leave when circumstances are exceptional. A form is available from the school office for this purpose. Time off school for family holidays is not permitted unless the reasons provided are one-off and exceptional. Each request is considered on an individual basis. The decision whether to authorise or reject an application for term time leave is made by the Headteacher.
- You should keep your child at home if they are genuinely unwell. However, children should return to school as soon as possible and parents must provide a note to explain the absence or phone the school to provide a verbal explanation. A record is kept of the reason for each absence. If there is an extended period of absence or the Education Attendance Officer is working with a family, a doctor's note may be requested by the school.
- Parents are asked to provide appointment letters for medical appointments or reminder texts received for routine dental appointments etc.

I would like to thank the vast majority of parents for ensuring that their children have the highest possible school attendance and arrive at school on time.

CHRISTMAS DINNER 2016 - Wednesday 14th December



Child's name: _____ Class: _____

Please read carefully and **tick one box only** - they are mutually exclusive!

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

My child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and normally eats a Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) at lunchtime each day. They would like Christmas dinner. I understand that I do not have to pay for this.

My child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 but normally brings sandwiches to eat at lunchtime.

They would like Christmas dinner on Tuesday 15th December. **I understand that I need to pay £2.30 for their Christmas dinner and enclose this** because the school is not claiming money from the Department of Education for my child's meals because I have chosen for them not to be part of the UIFSM scheme.

My child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and normally brings sandwiches to eat at lunchtime. They do not want a Christmas dinner and I will provide them with sandwiches as usual.

Years 3 and 4

My child is in Year 3 or Year 4 and is entitled to FSM. They usually have a school dinner and would like Christmas dinner. I understand that I do not need to pay for this.

My child is in Year 3 or Year 4 and is entitled to FSM. I usually provide them with sandwiches for dinner but they would like Christmas dinner on 14th December. I understand that I do not need to pay for this.

My child is in Year 3 or Year 4 and usually has school dinners that I pay for. They would like Christmas dinner and I will pay for this as part of their regular school meal plan.

My child is in Year 3 or Year 4 and normally brings sandwiches to eat at lunchtime. They would like Christmas dinner on Wednesday 14th December. **I enclose £2.45 to pay for their meal.**

My child is in Year 3 or Year 4 and normally brings sandwiches to eat at lunchtime. They do not want a Christmas dinner and I will provide them with sandwiches as usual.

Signed: _____ Parent / Carer

PLEASE RETURN ONE FORM PER CHILD TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE ASAP.

☺ THANK YOU ☺