Dear Parents

The Elements

This term our topic is The Elements and we had an exciting day last week which introduced the children to their learning. This was followed by literacy and DT on writing about and making kites. It is so lovely to see the enthusiasm of the children as we combine creative and academic learning. Please visit our website to see in more detail what the children will be learning during this topic. You will find this information under curriculum and then curriculum implementation.

The term is moving rapidly onwards, and many Christmas activities are on the horizon. We only have five weeks to go before the Nativity and the children are already working on their parts with much enthusiasm!

Below is the plan for our Christmas production.

**The Nativity - Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th December**

This year our Nativity production is on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th December 2019 at 1.30pm. On these two days the children spend the morning rehearsing and taking part in Christmas activities at Jubilee Church before performing in the afternoon. Therefore on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th December your child will need to be dropped off at Jubilee church in Maidenhead at the usual school starting time of 8.45 – 9.05am. If your child is booked into the Morning Club this will take place at the Jubilee Church and we would ask you please to drop off promptly at 8.00am.
Due to the busy road and the limited parking near the church we are providing a ‘walking crocodile’ manned by staff for the children. When you arrive to drop off your child please drive down the entrance of The Crescent that is furthest from the town centre and pull up at the side of the road on your left where indicated by staff. Your child will be walked round the corner (no road crossing involved) into Jubilee Church by members of staff, and you can continue driving round The Crescent to leave via the other end of the road. Please do not attempt to use the Jubilee car park as children will be walking through this space to enter the building.

As they will only be outside to walk to and from cars, there is no need to send them in their coat unless it is raining - there is also no need for book bags. Children will be able to order packed lunches for these days beforehand. They are welcome to bring water bottles with them.

The service begins promptly on both afternoons at 1.30pm; the doors will be opened to parents at 1.15pm. As there is no parking available at the church please use Maidenhead town centre car parks when returning either for the performance or if you are not attending the performance to collect your child from 3pm. Please ensure you have plans in place for collecting other siblings in case timings overrun slightly. If you are intending for your child to go to Wise Owls after the performance please inform Wise Owls and ensure they know to collect your child from the Jubilee Church.

During the afternoon FOBGS will be selling raffle tickets and tea and coffee will be served by members of Jubilee Church.

**Other Important Christmas Dates**

- Reindeer visiting school 21\textsuperscript{st} November
- Flu immunisations 2\textsuperscript{nd} December
- Rev Keith advent talks with classes 3\textsuperscript{rd} December
- Coach trip to Claire’s Court Christmas production 4\textsuperscript{th} December
- Children making Christingle oranges at school 9\textsuperscript{th}/10\textsuperscript{th} December
- FOBGS Christmas wrapping event 3.15pm 9\textsuperscript{th} December
- FOBGS Christmas wrapping event 3.15pm 10\textsuperscript{th} December
- Christingle Service at Stubbings Church for all year groups 5.00pm 12\textsuperscript{th} December
- ‘Save the Children’ Christmas Jumper Day 13\textsuperscript{th} December
- Nativity at Jubilee Church 16\textsuperscript{th} and 17\textsuperscript{th} December
- Christmas show/pantomime 18\textsuperscript{th} December
- Christmas lunch 18\textsuperscript{th} December
- Christmas party 19\textsuperscript{th} December
Last day of term 20th December, finish at 1.15pm
New term commences 6th January 2020
Brain Builders need to be returned 7th January 2020

Narnia – Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th January 2020 (parents and guest to join us on the 14th at 3.10pm)

When we return to school after Christmas our topic will be ‘Narnia’. The story from the Chronicles of Narnia that we will be concentrating on is ‘The Lion, the Witch and The Wardrobe’.

We have an amazing two-day event to introduce and support our Narnia topic! On Monday 13th January 2020 the children are visiting Dorchester Abbey by coach. Dorchester Abbey has created some lovely Narnia workshops which the children will be part of. The experiences created by the Abbey are wonderfully expiring for the children. We are confident it will be an enjoyable and educational day.

The following day, Tuesday 14th January 2020, the school is having its very own ‘Through the Wardrobe’ experience. This day will also be linked to our history project WWII. This is because the children from ‘The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe’ are WWII evacuees. Therefore the Tuesday 14th January 2020 will be a ‘dress up day’ and children should come to school dressed as evacuees. Staff will also enter the fun and dress appropriately!

Mobile Farm Visiting School

You might be interested to know that many school grounds were used for farming purposes, to supplement rationing during the war. Therefore, during the afternoon of our Narnia day, we are hosting a small working farm and its animals at school! The children will visit the farm and learn, hands on, the duties children would have done to support the farm work.

Other activities include visiting the Beavers house and Mr Tumnus’s cave; sampling Turkish delight and seeing what happens to the White Witch’s sleigh as winter turns to spring; deciding what battles we face and how we should approach these and how to reflect on adverse situations we might face. The school will be open on the 14th January from 3.10 to 3.30 so that parents and guests can join the fun and see what has been going on.
Brain Builders

Some of the children will have seen or heard adaptations of the story but not all. Therefore, we thought that this would be a good time to introduce the first, whole school, Brain Builder of the year!

For this Brain Builder we are asking children to watch or listen to appropriate adaptations of ‘The Lion, the Witch and The Wardrobe’. This of course would be under parental guidance and, when the children receive their books with details of their tasks, we will add links to age related versions that you might want to use. We will then be asking the children to write/draw about one or more characters that they really like or really don’t like.

The Brain Builders books will come home on Monday 18th November 2019 and should be returned to school after Christmas on Tuesday 7th January 2020. This gives you time to do the task either before or during the Christmas break.

Tawny Owl children will receive additional information from their class teacher before receiving their Brain Builder books.

A Request

We would like to borrow several artificial Christmas trees to add to our forest scene on our Narnia Day. If you have a tree that we could use after Christmas please could you let us know? Many thanks for considering this request.

Kind regards

O. Sheppard

Mrs D Sheppard