



# PAYHEMBURY PRIMARY POST

Newsletter 13 – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017  
01404 841291 Website: [www.fort.devon.sch.uk](http://www.fort.devon.sch.uk)

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## The next few days ....

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Craft & Netball Clubs 3.30 - 4.30pm
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	-	
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Exeter Phoenix Theatre Trip 9-12.15 / Dress Rehearsal 1.30 pm
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Nativity performance @ 2pm and 5.30pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Christmas Jumper Day

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## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents

This week has felt very challenging. Over both schools we have been hit by a number of staff absences. It is just unfortunate they have all occurred at the same time.

Mrs Foulds is still absent with a really poorly back. She rings every day to say she misses everyone! Mrs Vincent has also become ill. Breakfast club will continue and I will try my hardest to fill the gap with other available members of staff.

We had a great afternoon yesterday for the school football team. Awliscombe school came over and we had a super exciting match between the two schools. Payhembury finally scored the winning goal close to the end of the match. We hope to do more shared sporting events in the future.

Last week we had a full governor's meeting and as always, our agenda was long. However an important issue was raised through the parent governor representative by another parent. The issue of parking in the car park and dropping off/picking up. We gave the issue a great deal of discussion time and while we have great sympathy about the frustrations of not enough spaces there are a number of factors to consider.

The car park is the property of the school and the village hall, as clearly stated on the gates, but in fact it is used by the community of Payhembury to serve the village. It is used around the clock by everyone. Therefore this puts pressure on the number of spaces available throughout the day. No school in the country has a duty or expectation to provide any parking for parents. In principle it is a drop off and pick up situation. If you consider local schools it is absolutely the same for Feniton, Ottery St. Mary and Broadhembury.

One of the serious problems which makes it worse is the care taken when parking. Making your way across the car park can feel quite difficult some days.

Governors would like to recommend to parents that if you are within walking distance of the school, please try not to bring your car to school. Recently we have had a case where a child is required to walk every day to and from Feniton because it is considered within the 2 mile radius and deemed safe. I'm sure you would agree that is simply not acceptable but while we appreciate

your frustrations we wish to maintain our happy community ethos and not lock the gates at the start and end of the day. I have written to the Director of Education, Highways and Councillors on behalf of the school expressing our concern over the parking on the road outside the school and along towards the shop. I have made reference to the size and speed of vehicles but more importantly the irresponsible parking close to the bend and farm entrance. If we limit the use of the car park we would clearly impact on the parking along the road. As we have already witnessed, this could cause a serious accident.

So, in conclusion the governors feel we should all try to be more considerate in our use of the car park, park respectfully, drive slowly and carefully and we will work with the village hall to identify a couple of additional spaces. It is not a perfect situation but it is still a significantly better facility than most schools I know.

And while on the subject of parking, our Nativity and Carol Service always cause huge parking issues (we've obviously got too popular!). This year I have spoken to Rob and Nicki Leach to arrange permission for the school to use their land for parking on those evenings. I would like to point out that there is no lighting or paths so I would ask that you take care if you park there. We will have a couple of stewards helping to park but a torch might be useful. Again, please may I remind you to not park dangerously around the village as I received a letter of complaint from the Parish Council after our last nativity service in the church with regards to parking.

Please don't let that put you off. The children are working flat out learning their lines, practising talents and costume sorting in preparation to our Nativity in the barn. I feel it is a unique experience for the children to perform to so many and in such a fantastic space. As usual our wonderful FOPS will be providing refreshments - mulled wine and mince pies.

Next week we are also taking both schools on our annual theatre trip. We will be watching a performance of "Lucy and the Lost Ones". It will hopefully inspire them for their own show on Thursday. The following Tuesday will be a very traditional Carol Service in the Church.

My final thoughts this week go to our amazing Christmas Fayre last weekend. What a really fun filled afternoon we shared together. Thank you for your support. I believe FOPS raised over £1,000!! That is truly incredible and all credit to our FOPS committee. I know there were many volunteers on the day. Everyone pulled together so well which is why it was such an incredible event. It raised a smile to my face when the committee met to evaluate the day and to see how they could improve it next year. A true example of how dedicated and positive our FOPS team are.

Lastly just a small reminder about sending your child in with appropriate clothing. It really is very cold on the playground and even though they are running around it can be bitterly cold. Can I suggest they carry gloves and hat in their bags -just in case!

Don't forget your Christmas jumpers on Friday!

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Hammett

## Star of the Week - Well Done To....

<u>Willow Class</u>	Pre-School	-	George Feerick	Reception	-	Annabel Millett
<u>Ash Class</u>	Year 1	-	Ella Lusby	Year 2	-	Elliot Brainch
<u>Beech Class</u>	Year 3	-	Harry Bentley	Year 4	-	Oliver Burton
<u>Oak Class</u>	Year 5	-	Marcus Wilkinson	Year 6	-	Rafa Beadman

## Notices to Parents

**Admission to Primary School 2018 for children born between 01/09/2013 & 31/09/2014** - The application facility opens on **15<sup>th</sup> November 2017** and closes at midnight on **15<sup>th</sup> January 2018**. Parents should receive a letter from the Admissions team shortly, providing a Unique Identifying Number which will facilitate that application. If you have any queries please contact The Education Helpline Advisers on 0345 155 1019.

**Oak Class** - Please note Oak Class projects are due in on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

**School Meals** - Next week we need to place our school meal orders for the following week. There will be no meals available w/c 18<sup>th</sup> December **unless you have pre-ordered them**. We will ask KS1 children for their orders next week. If your child will be bringing in a packed lunch at any time during the last week please let the office know. KS2 children if you haven't returned your forms ordering a meal please do so. Any queries please speak to Mrs Lush in the office.

**Clubs** - Next week is the last week for clubs. There will be no scratch club on Wednesday.

### Letters sent home this week

- Exemplar Education Leaflets
- Pre-School Christmas Fun and Games Letter
- Nativity Performance Letter

## Dates for the Diary

### 2017/18 Academic Year

13 <sup>th</sup> December	- Exeter Phoenix Theatre Trip 10am
	- Dress rehearsal for the Nativity from 1.30pm
14 <sup>th</sup> December	- School Nativity in The Leach's Barn, 2pm and 5pm
15 <sup>th</sup> December	- Christmas Jumper Day
18 <sup>th</sup> December	- Oak Class VE Celebration from 3pm
19 <sup>th</sup> December	- Carol Service in the Church at 5pm
20 <sup>th</sup> December	- Christmas Lunch 12pm / Party pm
21 <sup>st</sup> December	- Last day of Term
5 <sup>th</sup> January	- Staff back to school
8 <sup>th</sup> January	- First day of Term / Heights & Weights Measurements Reception & Yr 6
24 <sup>th</sup> January	- Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting 6pm @ Payhembury
7 <sup>th</sup> February	- Resources Committee Meeting 6pm @ Awliscombe
12 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	- Half Term
21 <sup>st</sup> February	- Full Governing Board Meeting 6pm @ Payhembury
7 <sup>th</sup> March	- Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting 6pm @ Awliscombe
28 <sup>th</sup> March	- Resources Committee Meeting 6pm @ Payhembury
29 <sup>th</sup> March	- Last day of Term
16 <sup>th</sup> April	- First day of Term
18 <sup>th</sup> April	- Full Governing Board Meeting 6pm @ Awliscombe
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	- Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting 6pm @ Payhembury

16 <sup>th</sup> May	- Resources Committee Meeting 6pm @ Awliscombe
28 <sup>th</sup> May - 1 <sup>st</sup> June	- Half Term
4 <sup>th</sup> June	- Non-Pupil Day
6 <sup>th</sup> June	- Full Governing Board Meeting 6pm @ Payhembury
20 <sup>th</sup> June	- Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting 6pm @ Awliscombe
4 <sup>th</sup> July	- Resources Committee Meeting 6pm @ Payhembury
18 <sup>th</sup> July	- Full Governing Board Meeting 6pm @ Awliscombe
24 <sup>th</sup> July	- End of Term

### Pre-School

Don't forget the Pre-school Christmas fun and games next Wednesday - wear something Christmassy!

### News From St. Mary's Church Payhembury

On Sunday there will be a C.A.F.E Service at 10:30, but come early for a chat, coffee and croissants.

A thought :

Most smiles start with another smile

Unknown

### F.O.P.S

An enormous Thank You is due to everyone who came along to the school Christmas Fair on Saturday. It was a fantastic community event, and we raised an amazing profit of £1,200. This will go towards much needed facilities in the school's 4 classrooms.

Many thanks to everyone who donated items and helped out on the day.

### Nativity

FOPS will be serving mulled wine & mince pies at both Nativity performances on Thursday, so please come along a little earlier or stay on after the event to enjoy the festive offerings.