BEING THE BEST WE CAN!

Focus in worship this week has been on our school value of “Excellence”. The parable of the Talents illustrates very well the message that we are called to try our best and to make as much use of what we are given in the first place. Talents come in all shapes and sizes and it’s not just about being an Olympic champion or X-Factor star! What a great talent to have of being kind to others or being a great listener for example. Rev Rosie led assembly this week on the significance of ‘Christ the King’, an excellent way to move now into the period of Advent and the exciting run-up to Christmas. Three governors visited school on Monday to look at RE lessons and talk with pupils and leaders about the spiritual direction of the school. They talked about worship, learning in RE, PSHE and Citizenship, the school’s values and asked pupils about how the school helps to build character and promotes aspiration and optimism.

Christmas Fayre

Advent season effectively gets underway this evening with the PSA Christmas Fayre from 6-8pm in the school main building. The committee and regular helpers have worked tirelessly to prepare and all that’s needed now is for you to come along and support the event. Raffle prizes, silent auction, gifts for sale, games and competitions all feature strongly and there is always a lovely festive feel in the hall aided and abetted by some Mulled wine, mince pies and other seasonal treats! Hope to see you there and bring family and friends too.

Advent

Part of our ‘service to others’ at this time of year is in the form of the ‘Reverse Advent Calendar’ for each Form group. The idea is to give treats rather than receive them for each day and these gifts of food or other essentials is then given to local food banks or other charities. We have a travelling Nativity moving from one form to the next each day through Advent and this then becomes the focus for worship at each class on that day. We will also be singing in Windsor High Street as part of the Borough’s ‘Living Advent Calendar’ programme.

Carol Service

The main focus, however, of our Advent programme is the Carol Service held at St John the Baptist Church in Windsor High Street (next to the Guildhall) on Tuesday 18th December. Parents are invited to join us for our 2pm service where there will be traditional carols sung, prayers and readings telling the Christmas story. Letters will have gone home indicating that we walk to church so children need to be prepared for all weathers and have warm and waterproof coats just in case as well as be smart in their full school uniform please. Dismissal is directly from the Church at 3pm. KS3 pupils are expected to make their own way home directly but Year 5 & 6 parents should have completed a reply slip indicating what arrangements are in place for each child. Letters have also gone out about arrangements for Christmas lunch on Friday 14th. Please make sure all returns have been made to help out with the admin in advance. This day is a Mufti Day. Children bring in £1 which will go to a charity nominated by pupils.

Parents’ Evenings

A reminder to Year 5 parents that the curriculum information evening takes place on Wednesday next week (5th December) at 7pm. This is a chance to learn about the Year 5 curriculum in more detail and consider ways in which you can support your child at home. Please do come along. Thank you to Year 8 parents for coming to meet the teachers last week. The survey feedback from the night is attached for Year 8. Good to see how positive that feedback is with a huge majority expressing confidence in teaching, leadership and safeguarding and with 100% agreeing their child enjoys school and 98% expressing satisfaction with their overall experience. Thank you for such a ringing endorsement. In addition all comments are discussed by school leaders and shared with governors in due course.
Watches
We have recently had a problem with some pupils using watches that have the capacity to send text messages. Please can we ask that these watches are not brought into school. These are communication devices so we ask that they are kept at home.

Accelerated Readers—Congratulations go to:
Millionaires: Amelie Knowland 6/3 and Peter Jansen-Spence 7/1.

Year 7 Gurdwara Trip to GMG Gurdwara in Slough
Yesterday Year 7 went as a year group to GMG Gurdwara in Slough.

Quotes of the day from pupils:
‘It was fun.’
‘The food is really good.’
‘Calligraphy is such fun.’
‘Can we come back again?’

Quotes of the day from staff:
‘Who knew pupils would find handwriting fun?’
‘All that fuss over food and they had seconds, thirds and even twelfths!’

Year 7 netball team had their first tournament of the year at Furze Platt on Wednesday evening. The girls started off really well beating Furze Platt 4-0 and Dedworth 6-1.

The girls then battled hard through the next couple of games but were unfortunately defeated by Charters and Claire’s court. We look forward to the next stage in the tournament after Christmas.

The next “SERFBOARD” will be emailed on Friday 14th December 2018.
E-mail us your views on any items we run in the newsletter office@sterf.org.uk

Sports & PE Update
The Year 8 netball team played their second tournament of the year. The girls played exceptionally well winning 5 out of 6 games. The losing game against Newlands was very close and the girls unfortunately finished one point behind. Player of the match was awarded to Annabel for her excellent scoring throughout the tournament. Well done ladies.

PSA NEWS ** ** PSA NEWS ** ** PSA NEWS ** **
It’s Christmas Fayre Day! Thank you for your amazing responses with donations, buying raffle tickets and signing up to help: either with running a stall, setting up the fayre or clearing up afterwards.

Please come along this evening for lots of festive cheer and fun.

On another note, our November 50:50 winner is Year 6 dad, Woodie Taylor. If you would like to sign up for the remaining eight draws, please fill in the form attached and return it to the office along with £8.

See you tonight!

Appointments with Teaching Staff
It is important that parents follow the correct procedure when requesting meetings with teaching staff. The first port of call is always the Form Tutor but appointments should be made via the School Office. Please do not turn up and expect an immediate meeting as it is unlikely that we will be able to accommodate.

REMINDEERS
Year 6 Liddington, Wiltshire trip
Next payment is due on Monday 3rd December.

World River Projects
Here’s our Year 8 students working on their World River projects this week. They will be presenting these in class next week, improving their independent research and public speaking.

Student Council reps were serving the local community this week by litter picking in Parsonage Lane. Four of our Year 5 team, supported by Mrs Millington, braved the wind and rain to carry out their good deed. Well done!