



Dear Parents,

One of the very special things about our school is how the whole school community works together and Christmas is one of those times of year when everyone helps to make it wonderful.

Last week was St Thomas' Church Christmas Tree Festival and this year Mrs Pendleton (Ted's Mummy) led this project. She came up with the beautiful idea of creating decorations using music manuscript. If you didn't manage to see our Christmas tree at the festival you still can as it is now in our school hall. Another annual event last week was the Lantern Parade. This year Mrs Vince (Eloise's Mummy) designed our lantern; a beautiful snowflake. Working with Mrs Vince, the Friends organised three after school workshops for children to make their lanterns. A fantastic team of parents enabled over 70 of our children to create their own 'snowflake' lantern. With so many snowflakes in the evening parade, Coombe Bissett Primary School was definitely one of the key participants in the event. Finally, on Friday, the Friends organised our annual Christmas Mini Fayre. Once again there was a fantastic team of parents, led by Mrs Tidmarsh (Archie and Barney's Mummy) and Ms Poole (Amelia and Florence's Mummy) gathering donations, setting up the hall, helping children to choose presents and wrapping them. The Christmas Mini Fayre also couldn't happen without all the donations from parents. There are far too many people to thank individually (I would probably need to list every parent in our school!) so a huge thank you to everyone who made last week so special.

This week has also been very busy with performances from all the children in Oak and Elm classes and our School Choir. On Monday evening our School Choir took part in the Salisbury Small Schools Christmas Concert at Salisbury City Hall. Our choir's individual contribution was a fantastic performance of 'We need a little Christmas' with lyrics updated by Kezia Richter in Ash Class. They also sang as part of a combined choir of over 200 children accompanied by the Salisbury Area Wind Band. Yesterday was the performance of Oak and Elm classes' nativity play: 'Hey Ewe'. I know that everyone who saw the performance will agree with me that the children were amazing; the singing, signing, acting, dancing and speaking were exceptional. The success of the performance is down to a huge team of people, not least the children themselves who worked so hard learning songs, signs, movements and words. However I must also thank all the parents who ensured their children had a costume and helped their children learn their words; Mrs Tidmarsh (Archie and Barney's Mummy) for face painting; Ms Horvath (Max and Felix's Mummy) for taking individual photos of all the children in their costumes; Mrs Webster (George and Eadric's Mummy) for filming the performance; the Friends for organising refreshments and selling raffle tickets and finally, all the staff of Oak and Elm Classes for ensuring that the performance was so great.

Looking ahead there are lots of events to enjoy before we finish for the Christmas holidays.

### **Christmas Post Box: OPEN!**

Christmas deliveries by Ash Class have already begun. Deliveries are daily and continue until the last day of term. Please ensure that envelopes have **children's first name, surname and class** so they can be delivered to the right person!

### **Ice-Skating: Salisbury @6pm**

The Friends have managed to book the ice-skating rink in Salisbury just for our school. There are still a few places left so if you haven't already booked, let Mrs Tidmarsh (Archie and Barney's Mummy) know! You need to arrive promptly for 6pm to get the most out of the sessions, once you have been booted up you will enjoy 45 minutes on the ice. This is not a fund raiser but a great opportunity for our children to skate with their friends.

### **Christingle: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

I hope as many families as possible will be able to join us for this lovely service when Church and School come together for a very special service. Every child will receive a Christingle at the service. All the children will wear school uniform and sit with their family. Please bring torches and ensure your children are in school uniform and at the Church **by 5:45pm**

I also need parents to help make the Christingles in the afternoon on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 2pm onwards. We would like to make 103 so we need as many parents as possible to help. Please let Mrs Fiander or Mrs Watridge know if you are able to help.

### **Christmas Craft Day: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

The teachers have organised a 'Creative Christmas Day' for all the children in our school. Each classroom will host a creative activity and all the children will visit each classroom during the day in their colour team. We are looking for some volunteers to help with the different activities from cutting and sticking to baking. Please let either your class teacher know through your child's message book or email/phone the school office if you are able to help for part of the day or the whole day – it will be a fun day for all!

### **Christmas Lunch: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Through the generous funding of our Friends, all the children and staff sit down to a Christmas lunch together. This year our Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, please ensure that you have completed the menu choices for your child(ren) and returned it to the school office.

### **Christmas Parties: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

This year our Christmas Party Day will be on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Children should come to school in their party clothes; please wear sensible shoes for dancing/playing party games, and also bring a coat as there will still be outside playtimes. The staff plan and organise the party games and there will also be a visit from Father Christmas.

### **Last Day of Term: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

We will be finishing our term with Christmas Carols in our school hall. This will begin at 1.30pm and we hope that families and friends will be able to join us. **School will finish at 2pm.**

### **Christmas Disco: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December in Coombe Bissett Village Hall, 6pm – 8pm**

The Friends have organised a Christmas Disco to round off the term for all the children in our school. The disco will be held in Coombe Bissett Village Hall from 6pm to 8pm. There will be a DJ playing the latest tunes, tuck shop, face painting, hair colours and tattoos. Help is always needed for the different activities so please let either Mrs Tidmarsh (Archie and Barney's Mummy) or Ms Poole (Amelia and Florence's Mummy) if you are able to help. As always **children must be supervised by their parent/s.**

Finally, looking ahead to 2019, the Friends are busy working with Daphne Woolnough to co-ordinate the Coombe Bissett Sale of Sales (25<sup>th</sup> January, 10am – 3pm). This is a smaller version of the Rockbourne Fair, except this is the sale of all sales! Stall holders will be offering further reductions on their sale items, so there will be many bargains to be had on top quality items! Profits raised will be split between us and the Salisbury Hospice.

The Friends would love it if each family could donate a bottle of something (oil, toiletries, alcohol) for our bottle tombola. It would be an enormous help if they could start taking donations in the last week of this term and they will continue collecting throughout the whole of January – so please keep hold of those unwanted Christmas presents! Last year we raised over £1100 for the school and £500 for the Hospice. The Friends will also need plenty of help on the day, including stocking and running on the day, so please keep the date free if you can.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs D Cockrean

Headteacher

## Dates for Your Diaries

### December

|                                |  |           |              |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|--------------|
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>        | Christingle making<br>( <i>volunteers and children</i> )                                 | 2pm       | School Hall  |
| Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>        | Christingle Service<br>( <i>in Coombe Bissett Church</i> )                               | 6pm       | Whole School |
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>     | Christmas Craft Day<br>( <i>in school led by class teachers with volunteer helpers</i> ) | whole day | Whole School |
| Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>      | Christmas Lunch for all children<br>Party Day<br>( <i>details to follow</i> )            |           | Whole School |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>        | Carol Singing<br>( <i>in school hall</i> )   | 1.15pm    | Whole School |
|                                | Early Finish   | 2pm       | Whole School |
|                                | Christmas Disco<br>( <i>Coombe Bissett Village Hall</i> )                                | 6 – 8pm   | Whole School |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> –      | CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – SCHOOL CLOSED   |           |              |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> January |  |           |              |

### January

|                           |   |        |              |
|---------------------------|---|--------|--------------|
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>    | Teacher Training Day - NO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL                      |        |              |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> | Pantomime – Peter Pan<br>Funded by 100 Club; <i>CHILDREN ONLY</i> | 1.30pm | Whole School |

### February

|                                 |  |     |              |
|---------------------------------|--|-----|--------------|
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>         | Talent Show<br>( <i>in school hall</i> ) | 2pm | Whole School |
| Week beginning 18 <sup>th</sup> | HALF TERM HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED        |     |              |

### March

|                                 |  |  |              |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--------------|
| Week beginning 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Book Week<br>( <i>details to follow</i> )<br>Parent Teacher Meetings<br>( <i>details to follow</i> ) |  | Whole School |
| Week beginning 11 <sup>th</sup> | Book Fair<br>( <i>details to follow</i> )  |  | Whole School |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>      | Life Education Van<br>( <i>details to follow</i> )   |  | Whole School |

### April

|   |   |  |              |
|---|---|--|--------------|
| Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>                              | Easter Experience<br>( <i>details to follow</i> ) |  | Whole School |
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> –<br>Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> | EASTER HOLIDAYS – SCHOOL CLOSED                   |  |              |

### May

|  |  |           |                 |
|--|--|-----------|-----------------|
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>                               | BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED                                 |           |                 |
| Week beginning 13 <sup>th</sup>                      | SATs (National Assessments)                                  |           | Year 2 & Year 6 |
| Week beginning 20 <sup>th</sup>                      | Arts Week<br>(details to follow)                             |           | Whole School    |
| Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> –<br>Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> | HALF TERM HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED                            |           |                 |
| <b>June</b>  |  |           |                 |
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>                               | Teacher Training Day – NO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL                 |           |                 |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>                           | Baptism & Confirmation Service<br>(in Coombe Bissett Church) | 2pm       | Whole School    |
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>                           | Sports Day   | 9.30am    | Whole School    |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>                              | Music Conert   | 2pm       | Whole School    |
| Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>                           | Reserve Sports Day   | 9.30am    | Whole School    |
| <b>July</b>  |  |           |                 |
| Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>                           | KS2 Summer Production<br>(in Village Hall)                   | 2pm & 6pm | Fir and Ash     |
| Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>                              | Trip to Intec, Winchester<br>(details to follow)             |           | Whole School    |
| Week beginning 15 <sup>th</sup>                      | Science Week<br>(details to follow)                          |           | Whole School    |
| Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>                           | Leavers’ Service<br>(in Coombe Bissett Church)               | 10.30am   | Whole School    |
|  | Picnic   | 12noon    | Whole School    |
|  | Early Finish   | 1.30pm    | Whole School    |