Melbourne Infant School
December 2016 Newsletter

www.melbourneinfants.co.uk

Christmas Concert

We hope that you have all purchased your tickets for what I am sure will be another very enjoyable concert this year! A donation will be made from ticket sales and any monies collected after the concert performances to the Charity ***Place2Be*** *(Uk provider of school based mental health support).*

There will be 3 concert performances:

Thursday 15 December 9.30 am and 2.00 pm
Friday 16 December 9.30 am

Concert dress rehearsals for the Infant and Junior School will be on Friday 9 and Monday 12 December – *all children will see the concerts and the pre-schools are invited on the 12 December to the Infant School*

Please ensure you park considerately for each concert performance to continue the positive relationship we have with our neighbours along Packhorse Road and the surrounding area.

Carol Service

Weather permitting, it is planned to take the whole school to the Parish Church for a short carol service on **Tuesday 20 December at 2.00 pm**. We will require the help of parent/guardians to escort the children to and from the church – no DBS necessary. If you are available to come along, please see your child's teacher. No pre-school children or pushchairs. Thank you.

Christmas Craft Morning
Monday 19 December 9.15 am

If you would like to join your child in this festive event by making Christmas crafts, please inform your child's class teacher that you would like to come along. On the day it is requested that you arrive promptly at 9.15 am. The event will finish at approximately 11.00 am. Thank you.

Charity Fund Raising

We have had a very successful term in regards to fund raising – the following have been raised:

Stand up to Cancer – £221.30
Children in Need - £267.26
Poppies - tbc

Clubs

All clubs will finish for Christmas on **Friday 2 December**. Even if your child already attends a club ran by external providers and wishes to continue, you will still need to re-register. Club letters for the Spring Term will be sent out shortly and you will be notified when they have been sent.

Year 2 children only
Wednesday 14 December

A small group of Year 2 children will be taken to join the Melbourne Wednesday Group (11 am) and Poole Cottage (2 pm) to sing Christmas songs to our local senior citizens. If you are able to assist in walking the children to either of these events please inform your child's class teacher. No pre-school children or pushchairs. Thank you.

Christmas Party – Visit by Santa

By popular demand, Santa will be paying his usual visit to the Christmas Party on **Friday 16 December**. On the day, children may come to school in their party clothes. Please ensure the children are wearing appropriate footwear and warm clothing for being outdoors at playtime/lunchtime. Helping with the Christmas Party is yet another task which is undertaken so very successfully by the Parent Teachers Association and Christmas presents for the children are also funded by them. Please contact the PTA if you are able to assist with Christmas Party arrangements.

Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 20 December

The children will be allowed to wear a Christmas jumper instead of their school jumper – please do not feel the need to buy something especially for this day as any festive top will be fine as long as school skirts / trousers are worn.

Communication with Parents

The weekly email continues to be a success and will continue to be sent on a Friday to communicate any information for the forthcoming week. You should also be aware of class information which is uploaded to the class page on the new Melbourne Infant School Website on a Friday. Newsletters will continue to be emailed monthly around the 1st of the month where possible. Please notify the office if you do not receive your email or if you have made any changes to your email address.

Text to Parents

The text messaging service to parents is still being used but is only for more urgent matters ie; school closures, urgent messages to parents etc.

Illness

As is usual at this time of year we have had several children absent through illness recently. If your child is ill and absent from school, please ensure that you contact the school office before 9.00 am on the first day of absence and every day thereafter unless prior notice is given. Failure to do so will result in an unauthorised absence on your child's attendance record.

Please be reminded that if your child is ill due to sickness or diarrhoea they should be kept away from school for 48 hours from the last episode. If you bring your child in prior to this you will contacted and asked to take them home.

Note: If children are absent through illness at the start of the day they should be kept at home all day and not brought into school later.

Medical Appointments – when it is not possible to arrange a medical appointment outside of school time, children should not be collected or returned to school between 12 noon and 1.20 pm.

PE Kit

All children will bring their PE kits home over the Christmas holiday. Please can you check that clothing and trainers fit correctly and all PE kit clearly labelled with your child's name.

Safeguarding

If you have a concern regarding child protection or safeguarding please contact:
Head Child Protection Officer – Mrs C Gibbs
Child Protection Contact – Mrs Howell
Starting Point: 01629 533190
NSPCC Helpline: 0808 8005000

Pupil Premium Funding Reminder

The Pupil Premium provides extra funding within the school for additional equipment and support. The funding is available to the school for those children who are eligible for **free school meals,** please complete the appropriate form (available from the school office). It will enable those children to have additional support within school and also includes help with school trips, uniform and one free external club per term a year. If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals, which in turn will generate funding for the school, please visit: www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals or ask at the main office for information.

December

9	Children & Staff Christmas Lunch
9&12	Concert dress rehearsals for the Infant and Junior School – *all children will see the concerts and the pre-schools are invited on the 12 December to the Infant School.*
14	Wednesday Group 11 am (Yr 2 carols)
14	Poole Cottage 2.00 pm (Yr 2 carols)
15	Christmas Concert 9.30 am & 2.00 pm
16	Christmas Concert 9.30 am
16	Christmas Party/Magician pm
19	Christmas Craft morning
20	Christmas Jumper Day
20	Carol singing at Local Church
20	**School closes for Christmas Holidays**

January

3	**INSET (staff only)**
4	School re-opens for Spring Term

School opens Wednesday 4 January
Spring Term 1 begins