



Executive Headteacher: Mr A. Raistrick  
Head of School: Mrs T. Vayro

Pinchbeck East Church of England Primary School  
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Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018

### Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now well into December and it is already feeling 'a lot like Christmas'! The EYFS/Year 1 started off our celebrations this week, with their fabulous production 'Angel Express' and we are proud of each and every one of the children for all their singing, dancing and narrating. We had a surprise for all of the children today, we had a visiting pantomime, Dick Whittington. This was enjoyed by everyone. There are still more events to come.

#### A busy term

It has been yet another busy term across the school. Our KS2 children are really enjoying the new outdoor gym equipment, each class has their day and time and it seems to be very popular with all ages. The Green Team have taken part in a photography project and there are some wonderful autumn photographs displayed on the board in the small KS1 corridor. The School Council have been busy fundraising for Children in Need and the Christmas jumper day yet to come. The mini police can be seen around school, doing a great job, keen and ready to lend a helping hand to whoever should need it!

#### Advent Tree

You may have noticed that we have a Christmas tree in our main reception area, decorated with purple, the colour of this advent season. This is a tree to remember those who may need our prayers this Christmas time, or close family and friends that cannot be with us at Christmas. The children will be invited to write the name of someone who needs our thoughts and prayers on a purple tag and add it to the tree. We extend this invitation to you all, if there is a name of someone you would like to add to our 'advent prayer tree'. You are welcome to call into school to add a tag.

#### Uniform

We are very proud that the majority of our children come into school looking really smart, as the colder weather approaches can we remind you that if children wish to walk to school in boots they will need to change into their school shoes once in school. PLEASE can we ask again that all uniform, including PE kits are clearly labelled – our lost property bins are overflowing with unlabelled uniform.

#### Attendance

Unfortunately, there has been a real decline in our attendance figures, due to the increased number of holidays taken during term time. The number of children arriving into school late (after 9:15am) has also increased. This has such a detrimental affect not just on the individual child, but the whole class, as the learning begins straight away from 8:50am when your child enters school. Please support us in ensuring your child is in school by 8:55am.



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We are all aware of the importance and value of regular and punctual attendance at school. Not only is it a legal requirement for all children of compulsory school age, but regular attendance is essential for children to realise their educational potential. We recognise that children become ill and cannot physically attend school but beyond that, unless you have advance permission, there should not be any reason for your child's absence from school.

In order for the school to address the issue of persistent and unauthorised absence, we will, with effect from the start of the Spring Term, (7<sup>th</sup> January 2019) issue parents who choose to take their children out of school without authorisation, during term time, with a Fixed Penalty Formal Warning Letter. Forms to apply for absence from school are available from the school office. Failure to comply could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice from the Local Authority, which could then result in a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act before the Magistrates Court.

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 removed the reference to holidays during term time. This means there is no right to take children out of school during term time for holidays. Leave of absence requests must be submitted to the school in advance and any such requests will be authorised only if the school considers there to be exceptional circumstances. This is a matter for the discretion of the Head Teacher, with each application judged on its individual merits. If parents claim that a holiday abroad can be afforded only in term time or that a parent is unable to take leave during school holidays (this is a matter between the parent and their employer), it is unlikely to amount to an exceptional circumstance.

#### Diary Dates:

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December: 6 -7:30pm: 'Carols around the Christmas Tree' evening. Please come along and enjoy a family evening, with a special guest in a big red suit and white beard!

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December: 2:30pm Endeavour Assembly

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas lunch day

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December: 9:30am Christmas service at St Mary's Church led by our Year 3 children.

End of term 2

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019:** Term 3 begins.

With best wishes to you all,

Mrs T Vayro  
Head of School