

# park life

## Buckingham Park Church of England Primary School Newsletter

Volume 3 :: Issue 11 :: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014

### Advent

The word Advent comes from the Latin word 'Adventus' which means 'arrival'. Advent is the beginning of the New Year for the Christian Church, and a time when everyone prepares for Christmas.



In Christian Churches, a candle is lit for each of the four Sundays in advent. The candles represent the themes of hope, love, peace and joy. On Christmas Day, a fifth, central candle is lit.

We're thinking about our preparations for Christmas at the moment, starting by remembering the day, two thousand years ago, when the Angel spoke to Mary about becoming a new Mum! Our hope is that our entire school community will have great fun as we prepare for Christmas – but that we wouldn't forget the reason for the season.

We look forward to seeing you, and your friends and family, at our Christmas Fayre on Saturday. Thank you for your continued support.

### Thank You



We really appreciate the support we get from our parents and families. We know that you want the school to be the very best for your child and we like to work together to achieve this.

Thanks especially for supporting our recent Children in Need day (which raised over £260 for the charity), and our Tombola Mufti Day on Friday. Also, for collecting stamps and tokens, and for volunteering your help with our Christmas Fayre. We are most grateful for your continued support and generosity.

### Christmas Cards – A Suggestion



Our Christmas Post Box has opened today with a last delivery on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> December. All cards intended for pupils or staff at the school should be distributed in this way.

This year, we have suggested that children write a card to their class, rather than individual cards. We'll open and read them out in class, and then display them for everyone to see. Please address your card, "To everyone in ..." (for example, 'to everyone in 1B'). We'll also have a display of cards in the staff room for any cards addressed, 'To all the staff'.

## Keeping Safe



We are keen to ensure that our children and families are safe in and around school. We have, unfortunately, had some 'near misses' recently in the roads around school, especially in Jubilee Square.

Please drive slowly (at walking pace) and park safely if you are using Jubilee Square as there are lots of pedestrians including many young children around. This is really important, even if you are in a hurry. Jubilee Square is a very busy place and we don't want anyone to be hurt as a result of careless driving or parking.

We work very closely with our Neighbourhood Policing team which supports the school in a number of ways. The team is led by senior police officers and includes police community support officers (PCSOs) and police officers.

The team works with local people and partners to identify, tackle and prevent local, low-level crime, anti-social behaviour, and any on-going concerns. The team provides us with a visible police service and aims to make our neighbourhood safer by building relationships with local people.

You may see the police officers and PCSOs in and around school when you collect or drop off your children. This isn't anything to worry about – we are pleased that they are taking an interest in Buckingham Park and we are keen that they are here often. We have asked them to help us to maintain a safe area outside school for everyone's benefit.

## Emergency School Closure Procedure

As the very cold weather draws in, and the threat of snow, it is timely for us to inform you of our procedure for closing the school in the event of severe weather conditions, a loss of essential services (power, water or heating), insufficient staff numbers or another significant happening.



Firstly, it is important to say that we will always endeavour to keep our school open if it is safe to do so. If the decision to close a school is made, this decision is taken by the Headteacher in consultation with the school's Governing Body Chair. These decisions are not taken lightly and are often made following a recommendation from the Local Authority or as a result of warnings from the police, transport authorities or met office.

In the event of school closure we will notify parents through the Bucks County Council Website. The Headteacher is the only person with the authority to list the school closure on this secure site so, if our school is listed as closed, we are closed – there is no need to ring the school.

The local radio stations (Mix 96 and Three Counties Radio) will also be informed if we are closed for any reason. We'll also try to get an update posted to our school website, and send an email to all our parent contacts.

Please do not ring the school. Always check the Bucks County Council website first, then our own website for further information. The volume of incoming calls can make it difficult for us to contact our staff or emergency services if every parent tries to call in.

[www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk) Always check this website first and follow the links to schools, and school closures.

## You can help us in all these ways...

### Tubs4Tablets with Flora and Tesco

Collecting Tubs4Tablets tokens from Flora tubs bought in Tesco. We need to collect as many tokens as possible, these can be found on promotional 500g tubs of Flora Original, Light and Buttery and Stork (subject to availability).

Hand us your tokens... 50 tokens will get our school one brand new Samsung Galaxy Tab 7.0" Wi-Fi 8GB tablet so help us to claim as many as we can.



### Recycle your Stamps

We can recycle your used stamps to raise money for the school. Please tear or cut the stamps (don't damage the stamp, but also don't leave more than a 1cm border) and send them in to school. Please ask all your family and friends to help out too, especially as Christmas is approaching.

### Second Hand Uniform

The PTA will be opening a Second Hand Uniform shop soon so we are looking for donations of used uniform which is still in good condition. This will help other families, but also the school. So it is a win-win!



### Rags to Riches

We are planning a collection for textiles which can be recycled. As advance warning, there is a list of items we can collect. We will raise money by passing our collection over to 'Rags2Riches 4 Schools'.

Please don't send items in yet – we'll provide you with a bag when we're ready to collect.

We can collect: Baby clothes, children clothes, adult clothes, shoes (in pairs & tied), belts, hats, scarves, gloves, bags, purses, wallets, tights, ties, cuddly toys, jewellery, glasses, umbrellas, key rings, bedding & household linen, bath & hand towels.

## Christmas Fayre – Can you help please?

They say that many hands make light work and this is certainly true of our Christmas Fayre. The PTA Committee have everything prepared and ready to go – they are amazing people – but we will need lots of help on the day.

If you are able to help, even for a short time, on Saturday then please let us know. You can use the online form (we sent the link by email last week) or let us know through the school office and we will pass your details on to the PTA.

We will need help in the morning to set up, throughout the event, and to clear away afterwards.



# Off to Buckingham Park!



See you  
there!

Christmas Fayre | Saturday 6th December 2014 | 12pm—3pm

## St James the Great, Bierton and All Saints, Hulcott Christmas Services 2014

- Sun 7th December: 1.30pm 'Live Nativity' on the Village Green, Hulcott  
Sun 14th December: 6pm Nine Lessons and Carols at All Saints  
Sun 21st December: 11am Family Service with Nativity Play at St James  
6pm Nine Lessons and Carols at St James  
Christmas Eve: 4pm Crib Service at All Saints  
5.30pm Christingle Service at St James  
11.30pm Midnight Sung Eucharist at St James  
Christmas Day: 8am Said Eucharist at St James  
10am Sung Eucharist at All Saints

The Exchange Church invites you to a  
**Christmas Party**  
at Buckingham Park Primary School



Join us to celebrate  
Jesus' Birthday  
with party games, crafts,  
carols and cake

**Sunday 21 December  
10:30am**

[www.exchange.uk.net](http://www.exchange.uk.net)

*The Exchange*  
God changing lives