

park life

Buckingham Park Church of England School Newsletter

Happy 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.



We have started some Christmas preparations today – decorating our classrooms and thinking about that moment, 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.

Best wishes,

Nick Waldron

Christmas Lunch

Last week we sent you a letter about our special Christmas Lunch, which is taking place on Wednesday 19th December. This will be a very enjoyable Christmas lunch together. Please note the following important information:



1. Children who are eligible for a free school meal will receive their meal as usual – we will order these on your behalf.
2. Every child will need to have a pre-ordered meal, even if he or she usually has a hot school meal.
3. Meals must be paid for through ParentPay using the special order for a Christmas Meal which is on the site.
4. We will be using ParentPay for all payments to school from now including school visits, special events and so on, so it is well worth setting up your account.

Thanks for your support with this. If you have any questions, or if you need some help setting up your ParentPay account, please speak to our office staff who will be happy to help.

Remember: You MUST place an order for Christmas Lunch by Wednesday 5th December!



Names and School Coats



Please could you help us by ensuring that your child's coat is clearly named. Reversible coats are particularly difficult to name, but we have found that a tag attached to the zip is very effective because it can be seen whichever way the coat is worn. A named key ring, coloured tag or ribbon is perfect – the more distinctive, the better!

Welcome

We want to take this opportunity to welcome our two nursery teachers who started with us today. Mrs Faith Beer and Miss Laura Gates will be sharing the responsibility for the Nursery class. Both are experienced teachers with particular expertise in the Early Years Foundation Stage.



Over the next few weeks, they will be working hard to prepare the Nursery, as well as teaching across the school in order to get to know all the children and staff. I am sure you will join me in welcoming them both to the team.

'Sticker Club' Letters



I am aware that some 'sticker club' letters have been distributed to children at the school. This is a 'pyramid' or 'chain' type letter which encourages children to send stickers to a named individual and then pass the letter on to another six children.

We do not support this type of chain letter for the following reasons:

1. The schemes do not work. Many (generally most) of the children who take part will never receive any stickers – especially those lower down the pyramid – and this leaves children feeling disappointed.
2. The scheme relies on you sharing your child's personal details, including name and address with others, and you have no control over how this information will be used or who it will be passed to.

I understand that this can seem like harmless fun, but we do want to send a clear message to the children that these types of chain or pyramid schemes should be avoided. If you receive such a letter, our advice would be to put it in the bin and break the chain.

It is great to write letters to each other – and to give gifts – we would just ask you to do this in another way, with the people that you know really well.

News in Brief

We have sent home information today about costumes and tickets for our **Nativity plays** which are in the last week of term. Please read the letter carefully and respond quickly!



Remember that the **Rotary Club of Aylesbury Father Christmas Float** is coming to Buckingham Park tomorrow. The float will travel through the estate from 6pm-8pm collecting for local charities. This will be a great event for all residents, young and old, to see Father Christmas and enter into the Christmas spirit!

Our **hot food service** was hit by a power cut today which affected the hub kitchen where our meals are prepared before being served at school. Thanks to Hayley Jackson for her quick thinking so that no-one was hungry – we ordered sandwich platters from a local caterer and served these alongside the cold desserts which were already prepared.

