

# park life

## Buckingham Park Church of England Primary School Newsletter

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### Let There Be Light!

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This week, millions of people around the world have been celebrating festivals of light. Diwali and Bonfire Night are two such examples – these festivals are celebrated by lighting bonfires, diva lamps, and fireworks. Later this term Hanukkah will be celebrated by Jews, and Christmas will be celebrated by many.



This can often be a busy and frenetic time when there is so much to do. Although we will be very busy, we do want to pause and think about what these festivities mean. As we lead up to Christmas, especially, we will want the children to see that this is also a festival of light. The Bible talks about the coming of Jesus as a Light who will draw the nations to him. We'll also be considering how we can be a light to others.

To all our families who are celebrating Diwali, this week we offer our warmest wishes for a joyous celebration.

Best wishes,

*Nick Waldron*

### Attendance – The 96 Challenge

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At the end of the half term we sent home a certificate to everyone who had not missed more than 2 days of school. Well done to all those families who have helped their children to be at school. Even 2 days absence during the half term brings attendance slightly below 96% but we are optimistic that those children will be 'on track' to achieve 96% by the end of the year.

At the end of this term we will be awarding a certificate only to those children who have 96% attendance.

### PTA News

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Thank you so much for the donations of chocolate and bottles for our Christmas tombolas.

Our Christmas Shopping and Pamper Evening is this Friday. This will be a fun and relaxing evening for grown-ups. Tickets, priced at £3 are available to purchase from members of the PTA (look out for them in the playground) or from the school office. There are stalls with hundreds of Christmas gift ideas, craft activities, refreshments and treatments.



Please remember that orders and payment for the coasters are due no later than this Friday to guarantee orders for Christmas. Please return the coaster, or the payment of £3 otherwise the PTA will be charged.

## Christmas Magic Show

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At the end of this term we have a special Christmas treat for all the children. We have booked Colonel Custard to do a special magic show. Colonel Custard is an award winning children's entertainer who has been entertaining children for over a decade.

The show will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December in the evening.

More details to follow. This event will take the place of the disco booked for that evening – which means we'll be able to have a disco on another day!



## Reception Requires...

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We need volunteers to support an activity in Reception from 1.00 – 1.30pm each day. The activity is called 'Play Dough Gym' and the teachers will tell you all you need to know! If you can do one or more days please speak to Mrs Whytewood or Mrs Houghton.

We need a good supply of materials for our 'junk modelling' area. If you have any empty cereal packets, egg boxes, yoghurt pots, cardboard tubes, scraps of material and coloured card, or anything similar, please send them in to us. Please make sure that all items are clean and dry.

## Keeping Children Safe Online

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We all know that the internet is an amazing tool, and wonderful world – and indeed we often use it at school. It is a fantastic resource which is growing day-by-day and there are more and more new technologies to become familiar with and to use.



These new technologies, whilst bringing many benefits, are not without their risks and dangers. We want to help you to keep your children safe in school, at home, and elsewhere.

Next Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November, we invite you to attend an informal and informative evening to hear about the benefits and risks that the online world presents to children and young people. We'll be sharing how we teach the children about e-safety issues in school, and sharing some tips for you to use at home.

The presentation will begin at 7pm and we'll be all done by 8.30pm. The evening won't be suitable for children but we do hope that as many parents as possible will be able to attend.

We'd appreciate it if you could return the slip below so that we can prepare the correct number of chairs, tables, handouts, resources and biscuits!



### E-Safety Evening for Parents – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of seats required: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to the school office or your child's teacher**