



Kemble Primary School

3rd December 2018

7 December

Years 5 & 6

'A Christmas Carol' at
Deer Park School

7 December

**LAST CELEBRATION
ASSEMBLY BEFORE
CHRISTMAS**

10 December

Aladdin Panto

Everyman Theatre,
Cheltenham

12 December

4 Front Theatre—
Baptist Church 1.30pm
(finish 2.35pm)

14 December Christmas
Jumper Fundraiser

17 December

Nativity Play Dress
Rehearsal 1.30pm

18 December

Nativity Play
Performance 1 1.30pm

19 December

School Christmas Lunch
and party afternoon

20 December

Nativity Play
Performance 2 9.30am

21 December

Carol Service at Kemble
Church 9.15am

END OF TERM 2

Our Vision—To have fun, do our very best and to look after everyone in a caring community.'

This Terms Assembly Theme is: Good to be me

**' We wish everyone an early, very Merry
Christmas**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas fun - At Kemble and Siddington we really like to make the most of the Christmas period and over the next 3 weeks children may be involved in crafts, singing, plays or special events. The children and staff always look forward to the trip to the pantomime which is a lovely whole federation trip. The lunch is always a hit and we would like to thank the kitchen staff as the lunch is always amazing and they work so hard. After the lunch classes have party type activities for the children to make it a special day. We also love to end the term with a trip to church to remind the children why Christmas is celebrated. This will be the last full newsletter before the Christmas break. We hope that everyone has a super time with their families and that the season brings you happiness.

Nativity plays - each year the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children perform a nativity based play which is watched by the children in school, sometimes to community members and to parents. This year (as stated in the events calendar) the children's plays are on:

Monday 17th December 1:30pm Dress rehearsal and parents with young children to attend so that main performances are not disrupted

Tuesday 18th December 1:30pm - Performance 1

Thursday 20th December 9.30am - Performance 2



Please be aware that we do not allow parents to film the performances, but there will be an opportunity to take photographs of your child at the end of the play. This is in line with our GDPR policy and consent agreements with parents. Thank you for your understanding. We will also not be issuing tickets for the plays. We ask that only 2 people per family watch the play across the two performances and that if you want to bring extra you check with the office first. The office will keep a running list of extra guests.

Christmas lunch - we love to celebrate Christmas and you will see that the children are given lots of opportunities to have fun with friends. On the Christmas lunch day, the children have crackers, we love to play Christmas music and the Year 6 children are encouraged to 'do a turn' to entertain the younger pupils. All staff help to serve and clear the lunches and we all have a super time! Year 6's - please find a group or pair and think about what you could do (A song? Jokes? A sketch? - your parents may have some ideas!) Come and tell Mrs Dougill, Mrs Hamlett or Mrs Armstrong if you have a plan!



Other Christmas Events

There are lots of other Christmas events coming up as follows which you will already have had details of but as a reminder:

Friday December 7th—Years 5 & 6 to see 'A Christmas Carol' at Deer Park—Consent and £2 contribution to coach via parentpay please

Monday December 10th—All school trip to see Aladdin at the Everyman Theatre—Consent and £10.70 please via parentpay.

Wednesday December 12th-All school trip to see 4Front Theatre at Cirencester Baptist Church-Consent and £2 contribution to coach via parent pay please. Parents and Carers to pick up children at the Baptist Church at 2.35pm. Please fill in and return the slip sent out separately to confirm who will be picking up your children.



Friday December 14th—Christmas Jumper Day—Fundraiser. Wear non school uniform and a Christmas jumper. Please bring £1 for the chosen charity.



Thank you so much to Julia and Dairsie Latimer for once again making the school look so fabulous and for their continued dedication to our school - we are so lucky to have a super school community of support making Kemble such a lovely place to come to school. We were touched by the generosity of local tree suppliers which included Cirencester Christmas Tress - based in Tarlton who provided the large tree., and have a beautiful range of natural and made decorations; Also Malmesbury Garden Centre who have always been generously supportive of our school; Charlton Park (where you can pick your own) and Tesco who gave us the beautiful decorated tree with lights for the office. Audi Tetbury have kindly given £50 which will fund the lights and other Winter playground accessories.

YEAR 3 AND 4 INDOOR ATHLETICS REPORT by Lottie and Blossom

On Monday 19th November, a group of year 3 and 4s took part in the indoor athletics. The team was Peter, Degan, Louis, Kit, Henry, Zac, Jack, Scarlett, Bella, Isabella, Grace, Lottie and Blossom. (Blossom)

Although we came fifth, we had a lot of fun! Blossom set herself on fire as she ran like the wind. Zac never gave up on the javelin and Bella smashed the speed bounce! Grace's shoe flew but she finished with one trainer and Henry had a bad foot but still did his race. (Lottie)

Can we hear a round of applause for Mrs Sabage (clap) and thank you to the Mums and Dads who took us and supported us (Blossom)

Well done everyone, I'm very proud (Lottie)



Avon Tyrell - the Year 6 pupils are looking forward to their trip to the New Forest and all the excitement and adventure it brings. Please can parents / carers remember to keep up with monthly payments so that the amount is paid prior to the trip - thank you.

Behaviour - our Happy Playtimes Sheet shares that if children are kept busy and have fun at playtimes, they are less likely to have accidents or poor behaviour. We recently asked the children what things are needed. So... if parents have any 'old' toys that can be used at playtimes (if you are sorting out before Christmas) we are looking for Top Trumps, playing cards, comics, paperbacks and games such as dominoes, jacks or Match-box style cars. Please hand these in to the school office if you have any - thank you all so much.

Staffing news - Mr Peacock, who has had some taster sessions at Siddington is to move across to work there 4 mornings per week. Mrs Allen will be in Chestnut class from Monday. Miss Lacey who has been running our girl's football club at lunchtimes is now working as one of our MDSAs at Kemble - welcome to the team!

How House Points Work

As part of our positive behaviour management approach in school, children are rewarded with House Points. Every child has the opportunity to earn house points each week. These are awarded for continuous good behaviour all week, correctly learning spellings and homework activities. Additional house points are awarded during the week when children demonstrate our school values and learning gems (e.g. through showing resilience, helping others, being brave and taking a risk in learning, co-operation with others and supporting others in group work, listening, and for demonstrating good focus). These are awarded by all adults in the school, not just class teachers. The individual House Points are recorded in each class and counted each week. Children are each awarded a coloured Merit Certificate every time they earn 10 merits during the Friday assembly.

When children start at the school, they are placed in one of our 4 houses: Thames, Wye, Severn and Avon. Siblings will be in the same house. Although children earn their house points individually, these are also counted each week towards the house totals which are announced and celebrated in Friday Merit assemblies each week and the grand total displayed in the hall. House activities, such as sports day, also contribute to House scores and at the end of the school year the winning house have a treat chosen by the Vision in Action group. In the past these have been treats such as a trip to the park, a film afternoon, and afternoon of fun activities. The children enjoy working in house teams throughout the year including on Sports day where they encourage and celebrate with their house peers.

Dyson Challenge - The Dyson challenge has been going on in Years 5 and 6 in both schools and the children, and staff have really enjoyed the challenges. Promoting engineering is something that we try to do at both schools as part of their science, maths and design technology curriculum. We would like to thank Mr Barrows at Siddington and Mrs England, one of our local governing body members, at Kemble for their help, support and tremendous passion that they have brought to the classroom.



Children playing in inappropriate games - Please can we remind parents that children should not be playing or watching Fortnite or Call of Duty - which are for 12 and 18 year olds. Some of the rougher play we see in the playground are children playing out these games. Please can this be stopped with immediate effect thank you.

Parent / head chat updates I apologise that I was unable to attend the recent parent head chat meeting and thank you so much to Ian Smith, our chair of governors for holding the fort.

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Parent / Head chat cont....

Portion size of the meals - As requested, I spoke to the school cook who assured me that the portion size was adequate for the children. They follow regulations from the School Food Standards. I asked if there were times when food 'ran out' and I was told by MDSAs and kitchen staff that this has not been an issue since mentioned previously. The Caterlink area manager has since checked the meal size and said 'beautiful meals, correct portion size'

Behaviour at after school clubs - all our members of staff follow the behaviour policy. If anyone is asked not to attend (if behaviour is poor), then they are not 'banned forever'. Behaviour is monitored and usually an apology is sought and the child returns to join in - we are an inclusive school.

Eating outside - The MDSAs make a decision as to whether it is warm enough to eat their lunches outside. Usually at this time of year the children eat inside. Some children have taken their lunch boxes outside to eat when they had been asked to eat inside. I will ask the teachers to make sure that the children know that they must be inside to eat.

Banning football - It seems to be thought that football was banned due to the behaviour of certain individuals. Football was banned for 1 week because of the behaviour of **all** those who were playing and was on advice by teachers as they were concerned that the playing was getting too rough and they had been advised on more than one occasion to calm the game down.

Birthday sweets in class - When this was raised in June I consulted staff and as this can be disruptive to end of day activities and it is not the job of a class teacher to cut up and hand out birthday cake. I decided to put out a survey and the majority of parents voted for sweets or cake or party bags to be handed out in the playground by parents. Staff do not mind if the children hand the sweets out in the corridor, or near the door as they know some children who go to clubs or ASC may miss out. The teachers do make it clear that the children must take the treat to their parents before a decision is made if it is appropriate to eat. As a school we teach children through their PHSCE lessons to make good choices for a variety of reasons and making good choices about food is important to learn. Please remember that if there are 30 children in the class, usually 3 will have allergies and so maybe a small party bag or other treat is more suitable.

Staffing - At the start of each year we carry out an analysis of pupil needs and staffing skills and the staff are placed where there is a need. This can mean that some classes may have more than 1 teaching partner and some classes only a few sessions or none at all. Teachers can lead a whole class of 30 without support - they are trained for this and parents should not expect classes to have a teaching partner in. Staff at the schools can work across the federation and they are made aware of this upon employment. It has been mentioned that there are a number of new faces in certain classes.

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Parent Head Chat—Staffing Continued

If we have to use a supply teacher agency, schools may not get the same teacher two days in a row, though of course we would want this ideally. We do try all we can to have consistency for the children and is part of the reason we sometimes use teaching partners to cover lessons in emergencies or if we feel it would be better for the children in a certain situation.

Homework - Primary 'worksheet' homework has very little impact on child progress or attainment compared to the effort in preparation so we will not be issuing worksheets for homework. This was the reason for paying for Mathletics and Spellodrome. Parents are asked to concentrate on reading and times tables and teachers provide calculation support that can be found on the school website 'Our Learning' - Maths page link. <http://kemble.gloucs.sch.uk/maths-page.html>

The maths leaders are re-developing new sheets for each year group that will be available soon.

Linking with Siddington CE School for sports - I was disappointed to hear that parents were not happy that Siddington children were in a team with Kemble for the recent athletics meet. If we did not join up with the children from Siddington, then we would not have been able to take part in the athletics as there were insufficient numbers from Kemble alone.

Positives - The children have enjoyed the war topic in Years 5 & 6. Mrs Armstrong and her work has been welcomed and praised by parents.

Hour of Code—3rd -9th December. This week is Hour of Code week, please see more details about this from Ms Wyatt at Siddington:

Subject line: Our students are changing the future with an Hour of Code

Dear Parents,

We live in a world surrounded by technology. And we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly depend on understanding how technology works.

But only a tiny fraction of us are learning **how** technology works. Only 35% of all high schools teach computer science. That's why our entire school is joining in on the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code, during Computer Science Education Week (December 3-9). More than 100 million students worldwide have already tried an Hour of Code. Our Hour of Code is making a statement that **Siddington School / Kemble School** is ready to teach these foundational 21st-century skills. To continue bringing programming activities to your students, we want to make our Hour of Code event huge. I encourage you to volunteer, reach out to local media, share the news on social media channels and consider hosting additional Hour of Code events in the community.

This is a chance to change the future of education in **Siddington / Kemble**

See <http://hourofcode.com/uk> for details, and help spread the word. If you would like to try some of the activities at home please visit <https://code.org/learn>

SAMARA'S AID APPEAL FOR THE RELIEF OF SUFFERING IN SYRIA

We are supporting this charity with another collection for Syria on January 21st to January 23rd 2019 at KEMBLE HOUSE (next to Kemble Church).

GOOD condition, clean clothing for Winter and Summer, for all genders from birth to adult, and also flat footwear is required. Alternatively if you would like to make up or contribute to the makeup of a care pack or even make a small donation towards transport (it costs £5 for every banana box that is filled) then that would be greatly appreciated.

Please deliver any donations to Kemble House on Monday 21st January or if collection is required before this date/you have any queries please call Jean Whitehead on 07770 690182.

CHRISTMAS OPENING AT CIRENCESTER FOODBANK

Please find the following information from the foodbank

As the Christmas holidays approach, we wanted to update you on the Foodbank sessions for the Christmas fortnight.

The Foodbank in Cirencester will be open as normal on Monday 24 December from 1pm-3.30 and Thursday 27 December from 9.30am-12noon. We will also be open Monday 31 December from 1pm to 3.30pm and from 9.30am to 12pm on Thursday 3 January. Foodbank sessions will be closed on Christmas Day & Boxing Day in Tetbury & Fairford and on New Year's Day in Tetbury.

With the term finishing on Friday 21 December, we recognise that some families may struggle to come into us in the Christmas week. For those families usually in receipt of a free school meal, a voucher per week of the holidays can be issued. In order to ensure that the families can access support in time for Christmas, the voucher for the first week (week commencing 24 December) may be redeemed in week commencing 18 December (assuming you are able to issue before the end of term).

Term 3 - We have a Corinium Education Trust Teacher Development (TD) Day on Monday 7th January so we look forward to everyone coming back to school on Tuesday 8th January 2019!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lexi, Olivia, Henry, Harriet, William, Elouise, Degan, Courtney, Jasper, Matilda T, Levente

