



## December Newsletter 2018

### Dates for your diary!

Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Open Day for new families
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Y7 girls - St Cecelia's Christmas Workshop
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y1 - 3 pupils - Ashlea PS (Shared Ed)
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Pupils from Ashlea PS visit Culmore PS (Shared Ed)
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Peter Pan at Millennium Forum <b>NO DINNER TODAY</b>
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Performance (1.30pm)
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Performance (1 <sup>st</sup> : 10.00am/2 <sup>nd</sup> : 6.30pm)
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Dinner/Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Fayre/Santa - 2pm-4pm
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Choir to visit Owen Mor (2pm)
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Christmas Service/Last day of term; half day
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Digital Admissions open for Y1 Pupils starting Sept
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	New Term Begins
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Half Term begins
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Back to school

*WE HAVE A VERY BUSY MONTH AHEAD; I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH ALL OUR FAMILIES A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!*

### Shoebox Appeal and Spotacular

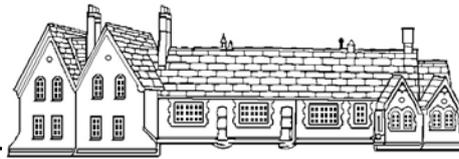
Thank you for your support with the Shoebox appeal. 48 shoeboxes were collected from school, during a special assembly last, month. I'm sure you'll agree that this is a great number for our small school.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November was 'BBC Children in Need' Fundraising day. We raised £135 for this charity; once again, thank you.

### LATE ARRIVALS/ABSENCES

Parents are reminded that the **school day starts at 9:00 am**. All children **MUST** be in class by this time and registers are taken promptly. Any pupil who arrives after this time will be marked with an "L" code in the register; on their arrival, teachers are then obliged to input, in minutes, how late they are.





It is a legal obligation for teachers to carry out these procedures and it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that your child arrives at school promptly. We are visited by the Education Welfare Officer regularly - already he has noticed that there are particular pupils who are consistently late/absent from school. I want to ensure that you are **fully** aware of the importance of punctuality and the impact that this has on the flow of the school day.

If your child is absent from school then you should inform school via a telephone message and follow up, with a written note, on their return.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those families who **are** ensuring that their child/children are arriving at school on time. This is very much appreciated.

### **Christmas Dinner**

Christmas dinner is on Thursday 13th December; all children are welcome to have dinner on this day even if they usually take a packed lunch. Dinner costs £2.60 and should be placed in a named envelope on the Monday of that week. As part of our Christmas festivities the children should wear their Christmas jumper that day!

### **Healthy Snacks**

We would like to thank all those parents who are adhering to our healthy snack policy by ensuring that their child/children bring a piece of fruit or veg to school for their **morning snack**. Teachers are noticing that a few pupils have recently been bringing in crisps and biscuits - please understand how difficult this is for all of those pupils who have stuck to our healthy break policy. We are extremely mindful of the dangers of exposing pupils, who may have a nut allergy, to any food containing nuts. Please **do not** give your child nuts as part of their morning snack or packed lunch.

### **Open Day**

We are holding an Open Day on **Monday 3rd December** for parents of children due to start school in September 2019. We are hoping to have another Open Evening in January too (date and time to follow). If you have friends, neighbours or family members with young children, please pass on your positive opinions of the school and encourage them to come and have a look around. Digital Applications open on the Education Authority website from 2<sup>nd</sup> January - the closing date for applications is midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019. Please note that this is a new system of enrolling your child for Year 1.





## Santa Letters

As children are preparing their lists for Santa, some items they might want to include are pencils/rubbers/sharpeners/nice writing pens (Year7 only)/colouring pencils/pencil case and ICT pen drives.

## Christmas Fair

This year we are organising a school-based Christmas Fair and a visit from Santa, on Friday 14th December. This will run from 2pm-4pm. Parents are welcome to come along and join in the 'Christmas cheer'. The children will have the opportunity to meet with Santa and receive a gift. More information will follow.

## Christmas Performance Tickets

- 1 Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 1:30 pm
- 2 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00 am
- 3 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm

<u>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec</u>	<u>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec</u>	<u>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School starts at 9:00 am</li><li>• Early dinner</li><li>• Performance starts at 1:30 pm</li><li>• School finishes at 3:00 pm for everyone</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School starts: 9.00 am</li><li>• Performance 10.00 am</li><li>• Home time (Y1-7) 2.00 pm</li><li>• Return to school 6.00 pm</li><li>• Performance 6.30 pm</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School starts: 9.00 am</li><li>• Christmas dinner/jumper</li><li>• Normal home times apply</li></ul>

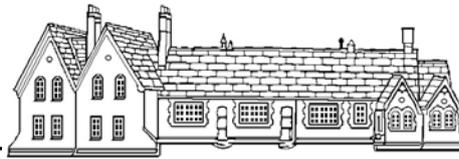
If you are free to attend the morning or afternoon performance we would urge you to come then, as others will be unable to do so.

Each family will be allowed a maximum of three tickets (2 of which may be for the evening performance). The hall will only hold 70 people so it will be "first come, first served" for evening tickets. This year we are asking for a donation at the door rather than asking parents to purchase tickets. Tickets are required as we have limited space. Please do not bring additional people as they will not be admitted and this may cause offence.

Pre-school children may attend morning/afternoon shows but we urge them to sit quietly on their parent's knee. In fairness to the children performing on stage, we would ask you not to bring any babies. If your child becomes upset/noisy during the performance, we would greatly appreciate you taking them out of the hall to avoid distraction to our actors/actresses.

Tickets will be available in the Assembly Hall on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December** from **8.30 am till 9.00 am**. If you are unable to come on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December**, please send a note with your child on that morning.





## **Pantomime Visit**

Our annual visit to the Millennium Forum is on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December, to see the performance of "Peter Pan". Pupils should wear their school uniform. All children must bring a non-messy, and substantial, snack to eat at the Forum. Please note there are no school dinners on this day and **all children will go home at approximately 1.30pm.** (Please understand that this time may vary slightly depending on traffic).

## **Carol Service**

Our annual Carol Service will take place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 11.15 am. All children will go home after the service at 12:00 noon. No dinner is available on this day. This year we would like to invite the Year 4 and 5 parents to celebrate with the staff, children and clergy.

## **Parental Help Needed**

I am sending out a call for help to our parents/friends. If anyone is willing, and able, to help "clean up" the general look of our school we would be extremely grateful. We need help to gather up leaves, give some rusted fencing a bit of a "face-lift", tidy up our bamboo shelter, and create wooden signposts for our outdoor play area (to name a few). If you have any hidden talents which you think you could invest in our school, please contact the school office and leave a message or talk to a member of staff.

Genuine thanks goes out to the pupils, parents, staff, FOCPS and Board of Governors of Culmore Primary School - your understanding, support and commitment never goes unnoticed,

Kind Regards,

*Clare McMenamain*



**Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year from the Staff and Pupils of  
Culmore Primary School!**

