



# School Newsletter

## 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

'Let us spur one another to acts of love and good deeds.' Hebrews 10:24



Dear Exbourne Friends and Families,

What a busy last two weeks we have had together! Thank you all for your involvement and support of all of our Christmas events – the children have had a wonderful time!

### **Carol Concert**

We had a lovely concert at the church where we sang traditional carols and the modern Spaceman Came Travelling. Thank you to our parents and community members for joining in! I was particularly moved by Silent Night being sung in Ukrainian and German. The children told the story of Jesus' birth from the Bible and they read their own prayers.

### **Pantomime**

The whole school went to The Queen's Theatre in Barnstaple to see Snow White. They had a wonderful time! Thank you to the PFA for paying for the tickets, the children even had an ice cream!

### **The Sleepy Stargazer**

Our Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 children put on a wonderful Nativity. We heard the story of the sleepy stargazer who joined the children, three wise women, shepherds and sheep to visit the baby Jesus. There was fabulous acting and singing from all! Well done!

## **Facebook**

Please see our school Facebook page for lots of photos!

## **Staffing**

Today we say farewell to Mrs Webix and wish her all the very best at her new school and in her future career.

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Doherty has joined our staff team and will be teaching Class 1 on Thursdays and Fridays. I know you will join me in welcoming her to our school community.

## **Parent Forum**

Thank you to the parents who came to the Parent Forum last week.

I gave updates on our school goal 'To make Exbourne Primary the first choice for families in our catchment area.'

To do this we have several areas we have been working on as a staff team

- To make our curriculum irresistible
- To make sure our Christian ethos is underpinning all we do
- To be more visible in the local community

We also discussed progress on the goal from the last Parent Forum - to be better at communicating with our school and wider community. We had positive feedback and parents said they enjoyed having more regular Facebook updates.

I really value your insights and contributions.

## **Ethos**

It's time to revisit and refresh our Exbourne ethos statement. What words sum up the ethos of our school? I will collect the ideas from staff, children and parents for a relaunch in January. Please add your ideas here: [Exbourne Ethos](#) or email me at [tpenny@dmatschools.org.uk](mailto:tpenny@dmatschools.org.uk)

## **Wrap Around Care**

Some parents have requested we provide after school care at school. To gauge interest and financial viability, please fill in this brief form. [Exbourne Wrap Around Care](#)

## **Thankfulness**

This term our theme has been thankfulness. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for your support. I absolutely love working at Exbourne School and I appreciate what a wonderful community we are together.

### **Robert Louis Stevenson wrote this Christmas blessing:**

Loving Father,

Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.



Wishing you all a gentle Christmas, I look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

With very best wishes,

Tara Penny

Principal