



OUR SCHOOL VALUES: RESPECT – UNDERSTANDING – PEACE – HONESTY – RESPONSIBILITY – TEAMWORK

December 2022

Well it's nearly Christmas and I'm sure you will agree that it's been great fun in school with our fantastic musical Nativity and Carol Service this year. Thank you to the Stirling family for donating our fabulous Christmas tree again this year. It looked beautiful in the hall when we had our lovely Christmas Fair on Friday. Many thanks to Mrs Hosker, her team and all the parent volunteers. It was a wonderfully festive afternoon and over £1,000 was raised, which will be going towards a variety of exciting learning resources for the children.



Winter Wonderland

All three school houses (Dinnets, Orchard and Putnams) were put to the task to design and create a winter wonderland display. Led by their House Captains, all the children really enjoyed making paper snowflakes, houses, Christmas trees and animals. The display looked amazing and everyone really loved making it. It was great fun and they are hoping to make something like it again in the Spring term.



Rocksteady Concert

What a marvellous rock concert we were all treated to last week. The children performed so well and confidently and I know our audience were so excited to hear the bands. At the moment it is for KS2 children and you can find out more about it following this link.

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>



School Car Park

Just a reminder that the school car park is for staff and disabled drivers *only*. Please do not park in it before school (even for gymnastics club or phonics) or to collect children from after-school clubs (such as football and art).

Thank you

to Mrs Duncan-Anderson and her band of helpers for organising the Christmas Disco. It was really enjoyed by all the children, helpers and staff who attended.



Save the Children

Everybody looked very festive in their Christmas jumpers and even more noteworthy was the £192 that was donated to this very worthy cause. Thank you.

Classroom Doors

Each December our classroom and office door are decorated for Christmas.



Happy School Bag

The next collection is 18th January 2023. Just in good time to have a clear out after Christmas!

Mud Kitchen

Windmills class have really enjoyed playing in their new mud kitchen! Thank you to 'Father Christmas and his elves' for building and delivering such a wonderful class gift. We hear that Mr Young's father was a great help in organising this gift.



Shepherd's Hut

We haven't forgotten about the money raised for the Shepherd's Hut and are still looking for suitable solutions to get the two donated buildings over to our site. If anyone has any ideas or can assist us with this project, please email the office.

Christmas Wreaths

Last week Mrs Davey and the PSA organised the second annual wreath-making evening. Some beautiful creations were made, the bases of which were created from our very own willow tunnel. Thank you to Mr Hearn and all the staff who brought in a variety of foliage. A fun evening was had by all.

Snow

We are so lucky to have our vast and beautiful outside space, which looked an absolute picture first thing in the morning on our first snowy day. The children were so excited to make snowmen and were sad it didn't last that long. Maybe in the New Year we'll have more snow to enjoy!



At the weekend I went to a Carol concert where I heard the Ukrainian folk tune 'Carol of the Bells'. The song, with a haunting four-note melody, was originally a Ukrainian folk song written as a "winter well-wishing song,". It was written in 1916 by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovich and titled "Shchedryk,". The song tells the tale of a swallow flying into a household to proclaim the plentiful year that the family will have. The song's Ukrainian title "Shchedryk," means "bountiful." It reminded me of our 'have life andhave it more abundantly' (John 10:10).

As we gathered in the hall for Celebration Assembly today we listened to the music, imagining the swallows flying back after the winter and circling above us wishing us life in abundance in 2023! It is also touching to think how a simple Ukrainian folk tune became a popular carol in America and other parts of the world when Peter Wilhousky added the Christmas lyrics. High aspirations for a humble tune!

Not long after our assembly we were had a special visitor bringing gifts for each class. The children were, of course, very excited to see Father Christmas and to receive a class gift. Thank you to our PSA for funding those gifts.

Finally, I wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas with your families. I hope the 'swallow' visits every Hawridge & Cholesbury CE School household, enticing you to live life in abundance, and I look forward to seeing everyone back safely in 2023.