# **HATHERLEIGH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **NEWSLETTER**

# 16th December 2016



Another year nearly over and I am sure that everyone is really looking forward to their Christmas break! I would like to extend our warmest thanks to the many people who have enabled Hatherleigh to enjoy such a successful and happy term:

- To the Governors who have worked really hard behind the scenes to plan for the future of the school. (p.t.o)
- To the staff for their energy and enthusiasm to provide excellent teaching and a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.
- To the parents who regularly come in to support in the classrooms and in particular to the PTFA who have surpassed themselves in their drive to raise funds to enable us to offer your children a wider, well-resourced and exciting curriculum.
- And last, but by no means least, to all the children whose performances you have enjoyed over the past week. Their enthusiasm for learning is clear to see!

I hope that you are able to join us for Carol Service on Friday afternoon to celebrate the end of term and the joys of Christmas. I am looking forward to returning to Hatherleigh next term after my term's secondment. I have learnt a lot and would like to thank the leadership Team: Mr Pearson, Mrs Orbell and Mrs Bartle – who have led the school so well in my absence.

#### **BABY BOOM HITS HATHERLEIGH!**

Congratulations to Miss Tucker who has announced that she is expecting her second child in the summer. We are all thrilled to hear her exciting news and wish her the best of health in the following months.

#### **SWIMMING LESSONS**

From 9th January we will be taking the Year 3 and 4 children (Poplars and Oaks) swimming on a Monday afternoon. Letters have been sent home to parents, please return the reply slip asap.

#### WELL DONE KS1

A huge WELL DONE to all of the Reception Class and KS1. What a fantastic performance of Little Angel Gets her Wings. We are sorry that visibility was an issue for many parents and have taken on board your wishes and will investigate the possibility of using the Community Centre for any future performances. Thank you for all your support and amazing costumes.

# This Week's Learners of the Week

Eva Chiverton Bodhi Parnell

Film Club review of the week for 'Arthur Christmas' goes to Mia Spears. Well done Mia!

#### **WE COLLECT USED STAMPS**

Just a reminder to parents that we do collect used stamps. The box is by the office near Oaks classroom. Please leave 1cm all around the stamp.

## THANK YOU FROM KATIE

Crossing Patrol Katie would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. A massive thank you for my lovely Christmas cards and gifts.

## THANK YOU FROM THE SCHOOL

... and the school would like to thank you Katie for all your care. Thank you to all our Devon Norse Staff—to Dawn and Kevin who keep our school clean and secure and to Lisa, Linda and Tracy—for going the extra mile in providing the children with a tasty school meal.

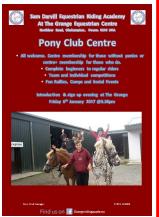
Congratulations to Liam Voaden for coming Runner-up in the Mel Stride MP Christmas Card Competition.

YOUTH CLUB—Youth Club disco tonight 7pm-8.3opm Years 5 & 6.

## MESSAGE FROM HATHERLEIGH SCHOOL PTFA

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Christmas Fair. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Raffle, Hamper, Tombola, Cakes and Toy Stalls. Thank you to Fiona, Hayley, Judith, Anita, The Teachers and everyone that helped on the morning, afternoon and evening. We made a wonderful profit of £990. Thank you from the Hatherleigh School PTFA.







**Designated Safeguarding Officer Caroline Boother** 

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

This term the Governors have been looking at how we can ensure your child receives the best possible education. We have been looking at whether your child would be best served if we joined a Multi Academy Trust. We formed a working party and held numerous meetings. Members of that working party attended training events, referenced a number of sources and under took research (including looking at the findings of the Education Select Committee).

### The findings were:

There is no current, overwhelming evidence that academisation is driving improved learning outcomes for pupils over and above maintained schools; for good schools with a strong leadership it is not clear why academising is beneficial at this point.

An experienced management and leadership structure is required to run such a large business but it is not clear how such a costly layer will deliver improvements at classroom level where resources are already scarce. It is also believed that large scale efficiencies often cited as a benefit are unlikely to deliver real improvements again at school level, where the MAT is large and therefore requires more administrative roles.

The leadership selection or succession within MAT's currently does not appear to be as transparent and open to competition as other sectors, including the maintained school system.

There is a concern that middle leadership layers (Headteacher) are likely to be spread across a number of schools, to drive efficiencies and reduce cost; but also reducing the effectiveness of their role, and making the system more faceless.

Academisation as a process is long and takes great commitment from senior staff and Governors, as well as providing a source of stress and destabilisation for those on the periphery, which distracts from school life and the provision of great education to our pupils.

Financial viability is expected to be only attainable at a MAT size of 10,000 pupils, this requires a large number of secondary and feeder primaries to make the numbers work. As such, a school of 200 cannot and should not expect preferential treatment in decisions or outcomes.

On balance, the Governing body determined that there is not sufficient, overwhelming evidence that academisation will deliver a step change in the outcome of our pupils at present, but that it would constitute a large distraction to staff and governors, as well as creating a level of instability which would be detrimental to the education of our children. Therefore, we decided that we will remain a maintained school, and that we will review the situation in 3 years time.

We will, of course, continue to work with other schools and the Governing Body will be actively looking to increase its collaboration both educationally and from a business point of view.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Boother back to our school – she will be returning four days a week in the Spring Term with Mr Pearson carrying on his role as Headteacher on one day a week. We would like to thank Mr Pearson who has done a great job during the Autumn Term ensuring that the school continues to move forward.

The Governing Body would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.