

*We wish all our pupils, parents, carers and staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

### Headteacher's Retirement

As you will be aware, Mrs Jean Hopegood is retiring from her post as Headteacher at Selwood Academy at the end of this term. Her last day in school is 18 December, when she will join the children for a Christmas lunch, followed by a farewell event from the school staff.

I would like to pay tribute to her dedication, inspiration and leadership during her time at this school. Jean joined the Academy in January 2014 and has ably led the school for the last 7 years. She has promoted and celebrated our Christian ethos, and under her leadership the school has become a beacon of excellence as a Church Academy, as reflected in the SIAMS report of 2019. She has truly embodied our core Christian values of Hope, Wisdom, Joy and Community.

She has been passionate about raising standards of teaching and learning and promoting improvements in pupil attainment of all abilities as recognised by the Ofsted inspection of 2017. During her tenure we have opened the 3G pitch, made improvements to the ICT suite and the food Technology room, and have been introduced to Ben, the school dog!

Trustees are especially grateful that she has delayed her retirement by an extra term to support the school through the Covid- 19 pandemic and the arrival of the new Headteacher Mr Daniel Jeffries in January.

Jean is now also retiring from a long and dedicated teaching career, having previously been Acting Head at Sexey's School, Bruton and Assistant Headteacher and Director of Performing Arts at St Gregory's Bath. It is unfortunate that COVID restrictions have limited our chance to celebrate her wonderful career more fully.

She will be much missed by us all, and trustees, staff and pupils wish her health and happiness in her future retirement plans. Mrs Hopegood is currently preparing an end of term video message which will be placed on the website at the end of next week. **Clare Cardnell, Chair of Trustees**

### END OF TERM REMINDERS

**Please could we ask that pupils do not bring sweets and chocolates into school during the last week. We have to be mindful of any food allergies, especially nuts.**

#### Friday 18 Dec

- \* Christmas lunch - If your child has not ordered a Christmas meal, they must bring a packed lunch as no other food is available. Free School Meal pupils will receive a Christmas lunch.
- \* Christmas jumpers may be worn!
- \* Years 5 & 6 leave school at 1.30pm, Years 7 & 8 leave at 1.40pm.

#### Wednesday 6 Jan

- \* Pupils return to school.
- \* Years 5 & 6 start school at 8.35am, Years 7 & 8 start at 8.45am.
- \* Pupils will be admitted through their usual COVID allocated gate.



### Christmas COVID reporting

If you have any COVID related queries or need to inform us of a positive test, please email

[SelwoodCovidHelpline@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:SelwoodCovidHelpline@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

If we are informed of a positive case parents of children who will need to self isolate. Communication will be made via text or email. All relevant info will be on the school website which you are advised to check regularly. <https://www.selwood.somerset.sch.uk/>

*"Let your light shine before others" Matthew 5 v 19*

Head Teacher : Mrs Jean Hopegood BA(Hons) NPQH

Selwood Academy, Berkley Road, Frome, Somerset, BA11 2EF

Telephone: 01373 462798 Fax: 01373 465712 Email: [SelwoodAcademy@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:SelwoodAcademy@educ.somerset.gov.uk) Web: [www.selwood.somerset.sch.uk](http://www.selwood.somerset.sch.uk)

Registered Company Number: 7814065

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - Selwood Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and we expect all

## Classrooms to Care Homes

At Selwood Academy our values centre around letting our light shine (Matthew 5 vs 16). In year 5 we thought what better opportunity than to get involved with a fantastic TES initiative called 'Classrooms to Care Homes.'

At Selwood we have historical links with care homes and the hospital, so we seized the moment and sought to bring some cheer to some of the most vulnerable people in our community. We recognise that Christmas celebrations will be difficult this year, so we have acted, maintaining Covid 19 safety: we have connected with Belmont Villa Care Home and Gracewell Care Home, to make this Christmas a little merrier.

Our Year 5 children have written beautiful, thoughtful letters to residents and thank you cards to staff. Our hope is that this will show residents we care for them at this difficult time and to care workers, that we are grateful for the incredible work that they do on a daily basis.

The children hope that their individual, small act of kindness will go some way to easing any loneliness felt by care home residents, and thank staff. The letters, poems, drawings, jokes (these are great!), riddles and stories will certainly bring a smile or two.

Christmas cards written by some children will be handed out nearer Christmas, another fantastic opportunity to bring light to those in or working in these care homes.



My wife and I have a motto for Christmas when it comes to buying presents. It goes like this: 'Something you want, something you need, something to wear and something to read.'

Reading is high priority for me as a parent for my children and as a teacher, there is nothing better than reading to help improve a child's learning: books can be inspiring, funny, memorable and increase a child's vocabulary, help improve their writing, and it's a wonderful life hobby.

Christmas is the perfect time to buy your child new reading books. Do some research, ask them what books they like and ask in local bookshops for recommendations and popular authors. 'Those who read achieve!' With our Library out of action for the time being and many children not yet part of Frome Town Library, some children are struggling to find enough books to read. Do consider this option this Christmas, get your child (if they're not already) into a reading habit. **Thank you, Mr Prouse (Year 5 Teacher)**

\*Useful websites for book ideas (8-10 yr olds):

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/reading-lists-for-ks2-school-pupils/suggested-reading-list-for-year-5-pupils-ks2-age-9-10/>

<https://www.lovereadingschools.co.uk/lists/35/Year-5-age-9-10>

Frome schools, the Town Council and our police force work together to make your environment a safe and friendly place in which to live, work and socialise. Our collaborative work is vital, thank you for your continued support.

At the moment, Frome is in Tier 2 and we all need to work together to prevent any further restrictions. Further information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know#high-alert>



## Accelerated Reader

Over Christmas, why not join Frome Library? Please ask your Tutor for an application form. Remember, you can log on to your Accelerated Reader account, from home via the Selwood website.

How do I find my Log in?

Take the first letter from your first name and the first Four letters from your surname e.g Jane Smith - User name: jsmit, Password : abc

**\*Congratulations to the top readers of the month\***

Ava N (5M) Olivia C (5R) Tom C (5R) Charlie R (5R)

Emma Q (6R) Amelia G (6M) Max E (6R) Rian C (6R)

Julie W (7L) Raya S (7E) Arthur D (7F) Sydney D (7M)

**Remember to Keeeeeeeeeeeeeeep reading!**



If you have any school uniform which your child has outgrown, we would be very grateful for it in school for us to use as spares. Many thanks.



## Christmas card winners

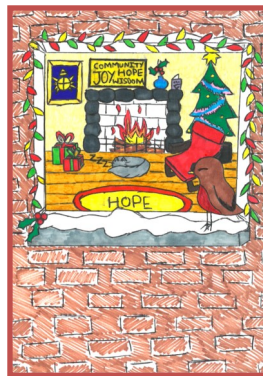
Congratulation to the winners of our Christmas Card competition! We had some fantastic entries and picking the winners was not an easy task. The winning designs will be made into cards to be sent out to contacts of the school.



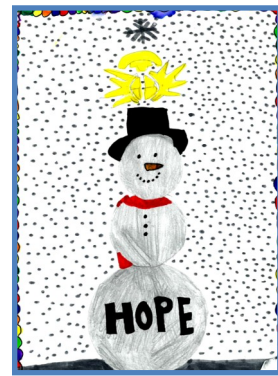
Isla-Mae Year 5



Lucie Year 6



Raya Year 7



Aiden Year 8



## Year 5 Bauble competition

Well done to all pupils who entered, after much deliberation the following winners were chosen:

1st Prize: Ruby M - 5E

2nd Prize: Tolly C - 5L

3rd Prize: Lily A - 5R

Eco Winner: Harvey B - 5E

Winners will receive a prize and a certificate and we will be donating some of the baubles to Frome Hospital.

## Thank you to Frome Lions Club

Frome Lions club generously donated funds that will go towards tutor room activities for the Year 8 classes. With the weather having turned it will be a welcome addition to keep the pupils occupied. Thank you to Frome Lions.



## Small changes for the new year

We have decided to make some accommodation changes in the new year for some tutor groups. Families and bubbles will all remain the same and there will be no changes to any of the current risk assessments. Children will be advised of their tutor room swaps during the course of next week. This is entirely rooms only not changes to tutor or personnel.

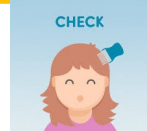
The consultation on Selwood Academy's 2022/23 admission arrangements is from 4 December 2020 until 15 January 2021. Please click [here](#) to see the proposed changes and for information on how to comment.



**Please see our website or click [here](#) for emergency contacts over the Christmas period.**

## Headlice

We have recently has a case of headlice in school. Please could we ask that all parents/carers check their child's hair regularly and treat as necessary. Thank you.



## DIARY DATES...

18 December	Term 2 ends, note the early release
4 & 5 January	INSET days
6 January	Term 3 begins, children return to school
18 January	Year 8 online parents evening (further info to follow)

Dates for  
your  
diary.....