



*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*We have finally reached the end a hectic term with so much to celebrate including the opening of our Reading Bus, a letter from the Education Minister congratulating school on our excellent early reading achievements and our work as an English Hub in supporting other schools to develop their teaching and learning practice in reading.*

*Staff and governors have worked so hard to ensure we continue to provide the best possible education for all your children, helping them to grow both spiritually and academically.*

*The Christmas productions once again were fantastic and the children are a credit to you all. The children have shared and celebrated the true meaning of Christmas in so many different ways and I know we are all now looking forward to spending Christmas with our families. I hope you will find the time to join the Parish in one of the Christmas services in Church.*

*May I take this opportunity to wish you all a relaxing, joyful and Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

*We break up this Friday at 1.30pm and return to school Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January, which is also the feast of the Epiphany (the wise men's visit!). The junior children will be joining the Parish on the first day back to celebrate this feast at the 9.15am mass. You are all very welcome.*

*God Bless and Best Wishes,*

*Dr Elaine Allen*

### Attendance to date (National Target is 96%)

N - 93.67%	RR - 94.65%	RM - 93.26%
1Ha - 93.42%	1Hu - 94.79%	2M - 95.62%
2W - 95.11%	3H - 93.27%	3M - 96.28%
4A - 95.68%	4T - 96.13%	5L - 95.52%
5W - 95.86%	6B - 94.39%	6OK - 91.88%

*Congratulations to all the children who have achieved this!*

### Nursery

In Nursery we have been very busy with lots of Christmas Activities. We hope you really enjoyed our Nativity Sin Song, it was so lovely to see you all there and the children did so well.

We are now busy making lots of Christmas things and getting very excited!

After Christmas we will be thinking about Winter, Ice, Frost and Snow. We will also be talking about animals and people who live in very cold places.

Thanks for taking part in our "borrow a story sack"- the pictures and writing you send back into Nursery or put on tapestry have been delightful to share with the children in class. A big thank you for all your efforts!

Finally, all the staff in Nursery wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

### Reception

*Thank you for all your support with your child's nativity and helping your child learn their lines at home. All the costumes you provided looked fantastic and we think you will agree that they were all wonderful and a credit to their families.*

*Another thank you to those of you who were able to attend the Christmas crafts workshop with Blackpool Council. We hope you and your child have enjoyed these sessions and hopefully it has given you an insight into the EYFS curriculum.*

*On Wednesday 18th December it is our Christmas party day. The children may wear their own clothes on this day and we will also be raising money for CAFOD - please bring 50p or whatever you can spare if you would like to donate and your child will receive some environmentally friendly reindeer food and a Rudolf face paint!*

*If you haven't already, it would be great if you could start allowing your child to dress and undress themselves at home in preparation for getting ready for P.E independently.*

*We would like to thank you for all your support and donations throughout the Autumn term. The children are really happy and have settled into school and we are pleased with their progress.*

*Have a lovely Christmas.*

### Year 1

*The children in Y1 have thoroughly enjoyed this half term and all that it has had to offer. In Geography, the children have been learning about where our food comes from and how it gets to our homes. In science, they have been learning about different types of animals and what makes each of them unique. In Mathematics, the main focus has been on addition and subtraction. Please feel free to discuss these topics at home with your child throughout the holidays as there will be no homework set. We would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and really look forward to seeing you when we return to school!*

*Mr Hardwick and Mrs Hulme*

### Fundraising—A Big Thankyou!

We would like to say a big thank you for all your support in our recent events. We raised-

Spooky Disco (PTA) - £1381.81

Film Night (PTA) - £890.00

Nativity/Advent Services— £3470.00

## Year 2

*Year 2 have had a hectic last 8 weeks! We had a great time at Clip and Climb challenging ourselves to climb the highest we could go. Our trip to Central Library was fantastic so we are all now members of the library. We can get books when we go to any library in Blackpool. The fire service came in and we had to make our own escape plan in case of emergency so please make sure that your child knows what to do in an emergency. We wrote a story about Kevin the Carrot and Father Christmas in Literacy and we have discussed money in Maths. Please ask you child different ways of making amounts under £1. Our first parent liturgy was a great success, it was great to see so many people there. Many thanks for all your contributions over the past few weeks with Cafod, panto and nativity costumes it has been greatly appreciated.*

*Looking ahead! We cant believe that it will be 2020 when we come back in January!! WOW! We have a trip to Pizza Express planned for our new topic called 'What's on your plate?'. 2MO has their class assembly at 9am on January 31st and 2W on Valentines Day - February 14th at 9am.*

## Year 3

**Wow! What an Autumn Term. We hope you have a fantastic and peaceful Christmas and New Year and you are your children are ready for 2020.**

**Next half term, our history topic is, 'Toys from the Past' where we'll be looking at how growing up as a child has changed from Tudor times, to Victorian days to the present date. We will look at the different games children would play, are there any the same? Also we will look at what it was like to be a child in those times.**

**In English, we will be reading the fantastic 'Pinocchio' by Michael Morpurgo. A slightly different take on the classic children's story which will give the children so many different opportunities to write in different genres!**

**In Maths, we will be further developing our reasoning skills and continuing to improve our use of different methods for problem solving. We will be revisiting some topics taught earlier in the year to refresh our memories.**

**We look forward to another successful half term in Year 3. Remember, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. We are always here to help!**

**Thank you for your continued support,  
Mrs Morris & Mr Horton**

## Year 4

We have had such a busy half term! The children in Year 4 have been learning all about North and South America in our geography topic and have also linked this to DT, in which we made American themed cupcake boxes (which was lots of fun!). In English, we have been reading and studying 'The Iron Man.' by Ted Hughes.

We have also started an exciting new spelling programme and are becoming splendid spellers! After Christmas, we will be engaging in a new history topic of 'The Victorians', which will include an exciting trip to Quarry Bank Mill. We will be sharing our learning experiences with you at a parent performance before the February half term - details to follow! Our class novel for next half term will be 'Stig of the Dump.'

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their continued support and wish you all a very merry Christmas!

Miss Talbot, Mrs Acton and the Year 4 team.

## Year 6

*This half term the children have enjoyed learning about the Amazon, linking in artwork, music and literacy (through deforestation debates). In order to bring the topic to life, we enjoyed a trip to Blackpool Zoo to learn more about the animals and creatures which call the Amazon their home.*

*The children have enjoyed a very festive couple of weeks with a trip to the Lowther Pavilion to watch Aladdin, Christmas dinner and jumper day, a fun Parent Workshop, as well as a Christmas Carol concert, where the children performed wonderfully alongside Year 5 pupils.*

*We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support this half term and would like to wish all SJV children, their family and friends a very Merry Christmas and a joyous new year. We look forward to seeing you after the holidays to begin 2020.*

*Thank you!*

*Marie and Siobhan*

## Year 5

We have come to the end of a busy and exciting first term in Year 5. The children have worked incredibly hard and deserve a well-earned rest over the holidays! Over the last couple of weeks we completed assessments in reading, writing and maths, as well as performing a sensational Christmas carol service along with Year 6. The children have been an absolute credit to themselves in their efforts and achievements.

Year 5 teamed up with our partner classes in Year 1 to complete a sponsored Santa dash around an obstacle course on the back playground to raise money for CAFOD. Thank you again for all your support for this fantastic cause.

Finally, we would like to wish you a happy, holy and healthy Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Miss Wills and Mr Lord.