8th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

**Newsletter**

Thank you to everyone that made the Christmas Fair possible. It was lovely to see the sheer fun and excitement on the faces of the children, who clearly thoroughly enjoyed it.

I’m also delighted to say that the PTA raised over £800.

On Wednesday evening our choir performed at the Sidlesham Memorial Ground in a Family Festive Fun event. I am told that they sang with pride, read beautifully and really helped to spread some Christmas cheer. Thanks to all those who attended and helped to make it such a special evening and huge thanks also to the Sidlesham Association for inviting and hosting us.

I shall look forward to seeing you all at the nativity performances next week - the rehearsals  for which have sounded most encouraging.

**Christmas Lunch**

Thursday 14th is our traditional Christmas lunch day.

**Internet Safety**

We are expected to keep the community abreast of the arrangements we use filtering and monitoring peoples’ access to the internet in school. To this end I can tell you that our filtering is carried out by LGfL and we use the monitoring system Securus. The filtering is like a ‘net-nanny’ used to prevent children from accessing any inappropriate websites while in school or using any of the school’s devices. While the monitoring system is there to identify and report anybody making inappropriate searches or using bad language on devices in school. We use Securus’ ‘Fully Managed Service’ to this end, which means that their team of safeguarding experts monitor and analyse the use of devices in school and inform us straight away to incidents of concern.

I hope knowing that these systems are in place provides some reassurance in this day and age with technology developing all of the time and causing some of us to feel increasingly like dinosaurs!

**Sidlesham Radio**

More children have been recording on Sidlesham Radio this week. Our junior journalists have produced the latest edition of Sidlesham News - [follow this link to hear all the latest goings on,](https://on.soundcloud.com/YeGde) from the children’s perspective. Also, as part of their chocolate topic, Penguins class have been writing diary entries from the perspective of different characters from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. [You can hear a few of them here](https://on.soundcloud.com/G9Pn9).

**Free Meals for Children**

Full Up is open to eat in or take out on the following days over the Christmas break and are offering free meals for children at the Bubble Bar, Selsey High Street.  To book please text 07852 506923

Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st December

**Wreaths**

We have some beautiful Christmas wreaths and table decorations on sale, please see the attached and contact the office if you would like to order one.

**Calendars**

The calendars, produced by the PTA,  have arrived in school so please come to the office to collect them from Monday.  There are still some available to purchase, they are £5 each.  Please remember we do not have a card machine.

**Guitar**

Mr Roberts who comes in every Wednesday to do guitar lessons with the children has a few spaces available starting up in the New Year.  Should you be interested please do contact him on info@alexrobertsmusic.com

A few notes on clubs:-  Today is the last Lego club.  Bushcraft is on next Tuesday 12th December and if your child (years 3 - 6) wants to do Taskmaster please sign them up (details on last week’s newsletter.  This starts back on the first day of school, Wednesday 3rd January.

**School Meals - Action Needed (if your child may be eligible)**

The DfE has asked us to make parents aware of the difference between UIFSM and FSM. They are separate schemes, and it is essential that FSM eligible children in Years Reception to Year 2 are registered as such in order for schools to receive the maximum funding available.

UIFSM Universal Infant Free School Meals is as stated - universal and for all. But Free School Meals (FSM) have to be applied for by parents who are or have been on low incomes but they bring a great deal more benefits than just school lunches with them. Furthermore, these free school meals (FSM) also continue through KS2 as well.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

* Income Support
* income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
* income-related Employment and Support Allowance
* support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
* the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
* Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
* Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
* Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

This data will also help inform planning for the Governments Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF). Parents need to be made aware HAF activities are available for all students in receipt of FSM. More information on these activities can be found at <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/support-for-families/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/>

The data also allows the Council to allocate funding for any FSM holiday time supermarket voucher schemes we are able to fund from Government grant funding. The voucher scheme funding is ad-hoc and the Council are reliant on Government funding to provide these, there is no guarantee of future schemes.

**Pupils are entitled to FSM (and the additional benefits this brings) only if the parent has completed an application form and you have received confirmation of eligibility.**

**West Sussex Music**

Parents of KS2 children, please see the attached flyer from West Sussex Music. They are offering free group music lessons and instrument hire in Chichester on Saturdays.

**Childcare costs**

From 2 January 2024, eligible working parents can apply for 15 hours of childcare for their two-year-old. Parents have until 31 March 2024 to apply for a code, with mid-January to the end of February being the optimum time to apply in case they need to provide further information to support their application.

To apply for a childcare code each parent needs to be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at national minimum/living wage and under £100,000 adjusted net income per year. This means that each parent needs to earn from just over £8,600 per year to be eligible for 15 hours a week of childcare during term time.

There is more information on the childcare support available to parents on the [Childcare Choices](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmNoaWxkY2FyZWNob2ljZXMuZ292LnVrLz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMjA0Ljg2NTU3NTExIn0.eGdwJOnEA5tk3lVHNBa7CnYhJbM0BgXNUr3S18DhYsM/s/2162396864/br/232155894398-l) website, where they can explore the early education entitlements and other government help with childcare costs.

**Dates for your diary**

Nativity Tuesday 12th December @ 2pm, Wednesday 13th December @ 10am and 5pm

Christmas Lunch Thursday 14th December

Last day Friday 15th December

INSET Day Tuesday 2nd January

First day of term Wednesday 3rd January

Young Voices Parent Meeting Monday 15th January @ 4:10pm

Young Voices Concert Wednesday 17th January