



**Stretton Handley Church of England
(Voluntary Controlled) Primary School,**
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Head Teacher Mr P. G. Searson B.Ed (Hons)

Friday 10th December

Friday Newsletter

From Mr Searson

SNOW, SNOW and more SNOW! And then the boiler!

Well hasn't it been a challenging two weeks! I would like to thank all of you enormously for your support throughout the school closure days and for battling through the snow and ice on the lanes to get the children here when we could open. Once again it the text system proved worth its weight in gold!

After the snow, we just could not believe it when the boiler froze! However thanks to Rev Lawrence and the Church Wardens arranging for us to use St Mark's Church we had a wonderful day on Wednesday on the old school building, which had not been used as a school for 41 years! It was a super experience for the children and staff alike. Look out in the local press for an article about the day as Ron Eley from Ashover kindly took some wonderful photographs of children back in the old school to send out to the press.

Sterling effort by the children!

I would just like to praise the children for their wonderful effort in preparing this year's Christmas play. It certainly has not been an easy task this year, indeed there were times we wondered how we could actually pull it together. Rehearsals were heavily reduced by the snow closures and when we could have them we were so short on numbers that I was reading half the parts. Some children only had their first practice today (Thursday) and yet the children are giving it all they have and loving every minute! It was lovely to see one group of characters spending time in the old school running through their lines in a self-initiated rehearsal.

Voyage of the Dawn Treader – KS 2

As part of our whole school approach to Child Initiated Learning the children in KS2 were consulted about the theme for the cross curricular topic for next term. After much discussion the children decided that they would like to study the 'Narnia' Books by C.S. Lewis. They specifically requested that to begin the topic a visit was arranged to the cinema to see the new production of 'Voyage of the Dawn Treader'. This visit will take place in January. I intend to send further details next week. (I hope this does not spoil any plans you had for family outings to the cinema over the Christmas holiday.)

Fundraising

Could all donations of food, wine etc... for the Christmas Auction be brought into school any day next week before Friday please. We are very grateful of your support in this event and remember the funds raised from this event will be used to purchase games equipment for the children to use at playtimes and lunchtimes so please support this very worthwhile project.

From the School office

If your child usually brings sandwiches for lunch and you would like them to take advantage of the opportunity to take part in the Christmas Party and Christmas Lunch prepared by Mrs Wilson could you please remember to return the form along with £1.85 per meal on Monday so that final numbers can be determined.

Whats on Next Week

Monday	
Tuesday	<u>Can all costumes please be brought to school by today for the Dress Rehearsal.</u>
Wednesday	The Christmas play 'Silent Night' at 2pm in the school hall. Doors open at 1.45pm
Thursday	Christmas Party –Children may come to school in Party clothes. Donations of food are not required this year as we always end up with such a lot left over as Mrs Wilson provides a buffet. Please support the fundraising event instead.
Friday	Christmas Dinner 'Carols round the tree' at 2.30pm. Parents are invited to join us for a good old traditional sing song in the school hall. This will be followed by the auction of Christmas Produce.
Monday	Christingle Service at St Mark's Church at 2pm. Children may be taken home directly from the Church after the service. School closes for the Christmas break. School re-opens on Tuesday 4th January

Yours sincerely

Mr P.G.Searson
Head Teacher