

# Primary Matters

News and Information from Primary Phase - December 2022

## Vice Principal's Message

In the spring of 2004, I arrived at Caroline Chisholm School wearing a hard hat and high-vis jacket, filled with excitement and anticipation of the challenge that lay before me. I imagined welcoming children to our brand new Reception class, wondering what it would be like to see them grow and flourish through their primary and secondary years and become young adults, prepared for life beyond school. And so, as I write my final Vice Principal's message, my imaginings have become a wonderful reality. My protective clothing has been exchanged for a retirement crown and sash as a special afternoon tea was served by a team of 6th form students, led by our head student, Danny, all of whom have been my privilege to nurture and know since their Reception days as enthusiastic, wide eyed young learners. What a treat!

I have been overwhelmed with the kindness and generosity of parents, children and staff (past and present) who have made my final week as VP such a joy. From a sea of shining little faces at my surprise indoor street party to an emotional farewell assembly and an unforgettable end of day gate duty, as I wended my way through a waving and cheering pathway of children, staff and parents, to be finally whisked away into the winter afternoon sunset in a chauffeur driven Porsche! Thank you for the many thoughtful cards, messages and gifts I have received and most of all, thank you all for your wonderful children who make our school a very special place to learn and work. I will miss it all immensely!

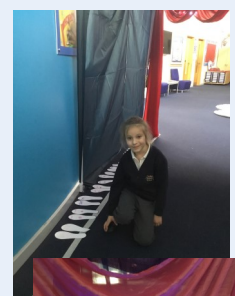
Finally, every new year is a time of hope, opportunities and change in all of our lives. 2023 is no exception and so it is with gratitude for all that has been and hope for what is yet to come, that I wish everyone a happy new year and a successful start to the spring term and beyond.

*Katharine Rogers*

## Prayer Space Project

At the end of November, we were pleased to welcome the Lighthouse Trust into school, supported by Grange Park Church to bring us a wonderful Christmas story prayer space experience in and around our KS1 hub area. On their journey through the Christmas story, each child was invited to make a personal response to themes including gifts and talents, thankfulness and hopes and dreams.

In the busyness of life and learning, this time of listening, wondering, questioning and reflecting was a very special and welcome experience for children in Year 1 - Year 6.



# Changing Circumstances

In these very difficult times, we are aware that financial circumstances have changed for lots of families. If this applies to your family, there is help available that you may qualify for. We would encourage you to visit the GOV.UK website to check if your changing circumstances mean that you are now entitled to one or more government benefits.

If you are in receipt of one of the following benefits, you may also be entitled to apply for pupil premium funding for your child:

- Universal Credit (annual net income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee 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 four weeks after you stop qualifying)

Pupil premium funding is additional school funding for disadvantaged children. It is paid directly to school to improve the quality of education for that pupil. This funding could be used to pay for free school meals, items of school uniform, school trips, additional learning support and other things.

To find out more information and to apply for this funding for your child, please visit the [Free School Meals and pupil premium page](#) on the West Northamptonshire Council website.

# Cost of Living Support

West Northamptonshire Council now have a Cost of Living Support Team who can provide help, advice and information about lots of different things like warm spaces, help with childcare, foodbank locations, keeping utility bills down and much more.

You can find out more information about their services by visiting [Cost of Living Support](#) or by calling 0300 126 7000

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**COST OF LIVING SUPPORT**

**CAN INCLUDE:**

- HOUSEHOLD BILLS**  
(SUCH AS GAS AND ELECTRICITY)
- RENT**
- COUNCIL TAX**
- HELP WITH BUYING FOOD**
- CHILDCARE COSTS**

**AS WELL AS OTHER IMPORTANT DAILY ESSENTIALS**

**THERE ARE PEOPLE ON HAND TO SUPPORT AND ADVISE YOU, SO PLEASE GET IN TOUCH TODAY.**

For more information on cost of living support, visit: [westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-of-living](https://westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-of-living) call 0300 126 7000\*  
\*Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

**COST OF LIVING SUPPORT**

**West Northamptonshire Council**

*“Everyday we identify a positive from our day and something we’ve learnt – the other day he said the favourite part of his day was guided reading”*

Parent



## Dates for Your Diary

### Training day

### School reopens

- Year 6 Residential 2nd payment deadline
- CCS Friends meeting
- Year 4 trip information evening
- CCS Friends Year 4 cake sale
- FS primary school application deadline
- Young Voices concert
- Year 4 trip 2nd payment deadline

### Tuesday 3rd January

### Wednesday 4th January

### Friday 6th January

### Monday 9th January

### Wednesday 11th January

### Friday 20th January

### Sunday 15th January

### Thursday 26th January

### Tuesday 3rd February





# It's Christmas!

## Foundation Stage

This year saw another successful Foundation Stage Nativity play as we performed 'A Boogie Woogie Nativity'. We were very impressed by the performance of each and every one of our wonderful FS children and hope that parents enjoyed this too.

FS children also enjoyed our traditional Mince Pies and Milkshakes event. Children took part in a variety of festive activities including listening to Christmas stories, decorating their own biscuit, creating a Christmas star hanger and enjoying mince pies and milkshakes. We had so much fun!



## Breakfast with Santa

Children from FS, Year 1 and Year 2 had a wonderfully exciting breakfast with the big man himself! Everyone enjoyed a yummy breakfast of chocolate brioche, a yoghurt, a piece of fruit and a mini muffin. They then sat down to enjoy a fabulous story with our very own Rudolph the red nosed reindeer (thank you Mrs Patterson!). They met Father Christmas who gave everyone a special present and wished them a very merry Christmas. Thank you to the House Team for organising this special event.



## Key Stage 1

Year 1 and Year 2 children attended our traditional Christingle services at St George's Church last week. The mornings were spent making our Christingles ready for us all to walk to the church in the afternoon. Some of our children did a reading and we sang our Christingle songs, we had a lovely time.

Year 1 and 2 were also pleased to welcome their families into school for Christmas Craft afternoons. We made paper chain snowmen, Christmas tree decorations and handprint wrapping paper, as well as covering the classrooms in glitter!



## Key Stage 2

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

KS2 children spent lots of time practicing for their Christmas Big Sing performances that parents were invited to. Each performance has been wonderful and really got us in the festive mood.

They have also been making their own Christmas cards, doing some fun Christmas crafts with their Year R buddies and enjoying a Christmas film this week.



# Goodbye Mrs Patterson



It was an incredibly emotional and action packed last week of term. As well as lots of Christmas events, we also said goodbye to a few members of staff, especially our wonderful Mrs Patterson. There have been a few surprises along the way.

We'd like to say a **HUGE** thank you to all of our parents for keeping our secrets and supporting these celebrations and for the very many cards, presents and best wishes that have been given to Mrs Patterson over the last few weeks - you have helped make this time extra special!

On Thursday, we had a fantastic surprise street party up and down the key stage hubs. The children all made their own bunting with special drawings and messages for Mrs Patterson and these were hung up in the hubs, along with lots of fairy lights; it looked magical!

Mrs Patterson was given her own crown and sash to wear and was treated to a big round of applause as she came out of her office to find out what we'd been secretly planning!



Mrs Patterson's last day at school started with a very special leaver's assembly which was an emotional experience. As well as the whole of the primary phase, we also had some special visitors including lots secondary staff, the CCS Friends committee, previous members of staff and of course, Mr Patterson!

The assembly included a trip down memory lane with some photos of Mrs Patterson through her career, messages from each class, funny stories, a tribute video from the staff, gift giving and the children singing some songs that Mrs P loves.

After a day full of spending time with children and staff alike, there was one last surprise to say goodbye to Mrs Patterson! While Mrs Patterson was confined to her office, the children and parents all gathered on the playground. The children formed a leaver's walkway from the link corridor, snaking all the way across the playground to the gate, where a sports car was waiting.

Mrs Patterson was so surprised and loved making her way through the passageway, saying goodbye to all the children as she went. She spent some more time saying goodbye to parents and well wishers, before being whisked away in the sports car, leaving in style!

