

# Delapre Primary School

## NEWSLETTER EDITION 19 – December 2016

### Dates for your diary

*Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December*

*Yr 6 Holdenby Trip  
Reception Christmas Performance*

*Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>  
December*

*KS1 Christmas Performance*

*Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December*

*Choir singing at Abington Care Home  
PTA Cake Sale from 3 pm in the Hall*

***The school will close at 3 pm for KS2 pupils today***

*Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December*

*Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children Charity for  
Staff and Pupils*

*Choir singing in the Grosvenor Centre*

*Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December*

***School closes at 3 pm for Reception, KS1 and KS2 for  
the Christmas Holidays***

*Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017*

*School re-opens to Pupils*

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of our Autumn Term, I would like to wish you a very peaceful and happy Christmas. Having worked hard all term, the children will be ready for a break and the opportunity to recharge their batteries (whilst wearing yours out no doubt!). We have had a busy and productive term with lots to tell you about and a few reminders to pass on.

### Procedures

As you are all aware, Delapre Primary School is a large school with over 560 pupils on role, and important strategies and systems are in place to ensure the school runs as efficiently as possible. Recently a number of parents have chosen to bypass the system we have in place and asked to meet with me personally over a number of different issues.

We appreciate that you may feel that this is your best course of action. However, in such a large school, it is often the Class Teachers who work with your children, who actually understand the day-to-day happenings. I do try to operate an 'open door' policy, but sometimes, due to the size, nature and expectations of the role of Headteacher, I cannot always be available and may not be the right person to see in the circumstances.

***It is vital that the following procedure is adhered to ensure that all concerns are dealt with as swiftly and appropriately as possible:***

1. Always speak to the class teacher in the first instance, as they are often best placed to understand or know about any concerns/issues relating specifically to your child. If the teacher then feels that there is someone more appropriate to deal with the situation, they will arrange to discuss it with the person concerned.
2. If the problem is more serious i.e. a child protection issue or a complaint, then the following member of staff should be approached, depending on the class the child is in:

- Reception Pupils – Mrs Smith (Senior Leadership) in RS
- KS1 (Years 1 and 2) – Mrs Arnold (Deputy Headteacher) in 2A
- KS2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6) – Mr Casey (Deputy Headteacher)

If the situation cannot be resolved by the Senior member of staff, they will speak to Mr Portrey and a meeting will be arranged at a mutually convenient time for the parent and Mr Portrey.

Thank you all for your co-operation in this matter.

### **Christmas Performances**

Christmas performances are in full swing, the school has transformed into a hive (or grotto) of festive cheer.

For all at Delapre, our Christmas performances are always very special events. The children are so excited about performing for you and their enthusiasm and enjoyment is matched only by the quality of performance they give - fabulous!

Well done to all pupils for giving their best, and thank you to all staff who work so hard to enable this to happen.

### **Welcome**

We offer a warm welcome to Mrs Stutters who is covering Mrs. Clark's maternity leave. We are delighted to have such an experienced teacher joining us. I would also like to congratulate other new staff who started working here at Delapre this year and say "well done for surviving the first term!" It is great after such a busy time to still see so many smiling faces (even if the eyes are slightly glazed over .....).

### **Future Newsletters**

**This will be the last Newsletter that we print and send out to Parents.** All future Newsletters will appear on the School website. However, a small slip will be sent home in book bags advising you of when they will appear and the link to the website.

### **Safeguarding / Child protection – 'My Concern'**

The school has moved on to an electronic system to ensure that we log every Safeguarding concern and deal appropriately with every issue. When matters are brought to our attention, staff will log issues and members of our Safeguarding Team (Mr Portrey, Mrs Furniss, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Smith, Mr Casey, Mr Fisher & Mrs Houghton) will discuss, evaluate and sanction actions. These incidents can vary significantly, but the new system importantly provides an evidence trail and instant access to every case. It also links identified concerns between siblings. We hope this system will help provide children and parents alike with appropriate support. If any of this information warrants further investigation, the school will use the gathered documentation to inform appropriate agencies e.g. support groups, school nurse, police, social services, schools the children attend after leaving us.

Please help us by letting us know if you are aware of any safeguarding issues relating to a pupil in this school, whether it is in or out of school. We have staff in the school that can help.

### **Parking across Private Driveways**

Recently a number of local residents have contacted us as they feel extremely irritated by inconsiderate drivers parking across their personal driveways. These are thoughtless parents and carers who give little consideration to others, and for the sake of being that little bit closer to school, will inconvenience others.

**Please take time to consider where you park and the actions that are witnessed by your children.** It is inappropriate for children to witness these confrontations, simply so some parents can get a few metres closer to the school. **This also includes parents who decide they are more than entitled to park in the staff car park.**

### Academy Status

With different stories in the press, the Governing Body at Delapre have taken the decision to form a fact-finding 'Academy Working Party'. Many schools across Northampton have already decided to take steps towards working in new/different ways prior to the Local Authority reducing significantly their involvement in overseeing education. Delapre Governors and the Senior Leadership Team have and will continue to attend meetings/briefings and monitor any new developments. We will keep you informed of any changes in this area.

### Delapre Diggers

You may not be aware of the amazing achievements of the gardening club this year. We were asked to enter the 'Northampton in Bloom' and 'East Midlands in Bloom', as we did last year. The judging took place in July and the Judges were shown round by two of the Yr 6 gardeners plus our wonderful parent volunteers Mrs Feetham and Mrs Whitehead. In October we attended the awards event at the Great Hall in the Guildhall, Northampton and were awarded GOLD in Northampton in Bloom and even more spectacular, we were then asked up again, to be awarded 'Best School Garden' in Northampton in Bloom. I would like to thank everyone involved in making the Garden Club such a success – Keep Digging! - Miss Gordon



Awards Evening at the Great Hall, Guildhall, Northampton

### PE Award

Mr Thomas has been busily gathering evidence across all sports in his quest to achieve the Silver School Games Mark award and I am delighted to say that Delapre Primary School has been recognised for its commitment, engagement and delivery of competitive school sport in 2015/16 and therefore has been awarded the **Silver School Games Mark**. Mr Thomas has assured me that we will be targeting the Gold throughout this year.

### Music Success

We were recently audited with regard to our music provision and I am able to confirm that we have received an 'Enhanced' rating, which is the highest rating. I wish to thank Mrs Butcher, our Music Subject Leader for all her hard work.

### **School Admissions - Final Reminder!**

If you have a child who is due to start school next academic year (i.e. who will be four years old before 1st September 2017) please ensure you have applied for a school place in time. The closing date for first time admission applications is Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 5 pm, for the September 2017 intake.

### **Poppy Appeal**

The recent Poppy Appeal in school raised £707.43 – the most raised by any school in Northampton! This is an amazing achievement and we were presented with a framed certificate from the Royal British Legion. Well done and thank you to all parents and carers for your generosity.

Thank you for taking the time to read this rather busy newsletter.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.



**H Portrey**  
**Headteacher**

