

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 2 AUTUMN 2018**



Autumn 2: December 2018

Term Dates	
<b>SCHOOL TERMS &amp; HOLIDAY DATES</b>	<b><u>2018/2019</u></b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Mon 5 November 2018 - Fri 21 December 2018
<b>Spring Term</b>	Mon 7 January 2019 - Fri 15 February 2019
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 18 February 2019 - Fri 22 February 2019
	Mon 25 February 2019 - Fri 12 April 2019
<b>Summer Term</b>	Mon 29 April 2019 - Fri 24 May 2019 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 6 May 2019</i>
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 27 May 2019 - Fri 31 May 2019
	Mon 3 June 2019 - Mon 22 July 2019
	<b>Remaining Inset Days 2018/19 Fri 15 February 2019, Fri 12 April 2019, Monday 22 July 2019</b>

Dates for Diary
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**2019**

Mon 14 January am	Year 2 visit from Warburton's for Bread making Workshop
Tue 15 January	Reception 2019 Closing date
Thur 17 January	Young Voices Concert
Mon 21 January pm	Fire Service to visit Year 4
Thur 31 January	Nursery 2019 Offer Day
Mon 11 February	PTFA Discos: Pancakes
Thur 28 February am	Reception Vision Screening
Fri 1 March	Secondary 2019 Offer Day
Mon 4-Fri 8 March	Health Week
Mon 4 - Tue 5 March	Lifebus at School
Fri 8 March am	Nursery: Playhouse Theatre
Fri 15 March	Red Nose Day
Mon 18 - Fri 22 March	Year 5 Bikeability
Thur 11 April	Easter Church Service
Tue 16 April	Reception 2019 Offer Day
Wed 22 May am	Tempest Photography: Class photos
Mon 17 June	PTFA Discos: Ice Pops
Mon 24-Fri 26 June	Year 6 Residential Condoover Hall
Tue 25 June	Year 3 visit to Compton Verney

**Staffing Updates**

**Year 1 Staff Changes:**

As Year 1 parents are already aware, Mrs Nicholson will be leaving George Fentham at the end of term. We would like to thank her for her work and wish her every success in the future.

From January 2019 we are delighted to welcome Mrs Barratt to George Fentham. Mrs Barratt is an experienced Year 1 teacher and is very much looking forward to joining Mrs Salmon as class teacher on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Barratt has already spent time in school, working with Mrs Salmon and meeting the children in order to ensure an excellent transition in January.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Mrs Salmon for her hard work and dedication to her class. Since the start of term Mrs Salmon has significantly increased her working days to provide stability and consistency for our Year 1 children.

**Lunchtime Supervisor:**

This half term we have welcomed Miss Jones to our Lunchtime Supervisor team.

**Special Educational Needs Coordinator:**

We are delighted to confirm that Mrs Morris is expecting her third baby and will be going on maternity leave in the second half of the spring term. Plans are already in place to cover Mrs Morris while she is off school and we will update you further in our next newsletter.

**Touchwood Christmas Choir Competition 2018**

**Year 5 & 6 Junior Choir**

The Junior Choir have had a very busy half term, learning a wide repertoire and performing in a number of venues. On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December, the children took part in the Choir Competition at Touchwood Shopping Centre, singing their favourite carols to a fabulous audience of parents, friends and staff. Mrs Kermode was so proud of all the children who sang brilliantly, including solos from a number of courageous children, and for singing beautifully at the Christmas fair the following day. On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, members of the choir in Year 6 also went to the Fentham Lunch Club to sing a range of carols to some of the senior members before they tucked in to their Christmas dinner. Thank you to all members of the Lunch Club who gave us a very warm welcome and we very much enjoyed having a sing-along with our appreciative audience. Congratulations to all children for their continued hard work and enthusiasm. You have been a real credit to the school and to your families and have started the Christmas season off with gusto!

**Voting is now open for Touchwood's School Christmas Choir of the year.**

**Please support us by downloading the free Touchwood App to vote.**

**The winners receive £1,000.**

**Please note only one vote per email address so please encourage friends and family to support us by voting too!**



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Christmas Performances 2018

A huge congratulations to all of our children and staff for six amazing Christmas Performances. We are incredibly proud of our children who worked so hard and enjoyed showcasing their many gifts and talents. We hope you had as much fun watching our performances as we did performing for you. We are always keen to receive your feedback, so please let us know what you thought of our performances. You can do this by emailing the school office: [s73office@george-fentham.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:s73office@george-fentham.solihull.sch.uk)

**EYFS/KS1 "The Bossy King"**

Grandparents Dress Rehearsal	118
Evening Performance	108
Morning Performance	83

**KS2 "Cinderella & Rockerfella"**

Grandparents Dress Rehearsal	110
Afternoon Performance	84
Evening Performance	120

Children, Staff & Governors 215

AUDIENCE TOTAL 838

May we remind you that, currently, parents are welcome to take pictures of their own child for their own individual use. **HOWEVER, WE REQUEST THAT PICTURES/VIDEOS ARE NOT PUBLISHED ON ANY FORM OF SOCIAL MEDIA.** Should parents ignore this request, we may need to review our current arrangements for performances and class assemblies in the future.

A Message from the PTFA



Thank you to everyone who has supported the PTFA this term! Whether you have helped organise, attended an event or donated - together we have raised an amazing **£3223.44!!** The Christmas Wreath making was again a lovely morning and raised £194.48, the beautiful Christmas Cards raised £251.50 and the Christmas Fair was as enjoyable as ever and raised a fantastic £2777.05.

As well as the enjoyment we can all gain from events like these, we can't emphasise how the money they generate is so important in the current financial climate. This money goes a long way to support school in making it a wonderful place for our children. This term as well as providing the beautiful Christmas tree and a small present for each child we will now be able to buy our second Interactive Whiteboard for school.

One easy way you can keep up the support is by doing your online shopping through [www.easyfunding.org.uk](http://www.easyfunding.org.uk). Just go to the website and search for George Fentham Endowed PTFA and you can raise money every time you shop online.



Don't forget to check out Classlist to find out the latest 100 Club winners.

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The PTFA's success is dependent on your continued support and engagement. We particularly need support from parents in Foundation and KS1 for the PTFA to be sustainable going forward for future years. If you would like to get more involved, any help big or small is appreciated, please contact us: [gfpfta@gmail.com](mailto:gfpfta@gmail.com) or via [www.classlist.com](http://www.classlist.com). Or just turn up at our next meeting. We look forward to meeting some new faces in 2019. Thank you!

**Date of the next meeting: 8:00pm - White Lion - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

<https://www.facebook.com/PTFAGeorgeFentham/>



### **A Special Thank You:**

On behalf of the children, staff, governors and parents, we would like to say a very special thank you to Mrs Cloke and Miss Sanders for their hard work in planning and coordinating our Christmas Fair. Their excellent organisation skills, enthusiasm and willingness to support our school ensured that the Christmas Fair was a fantastic success.

### **Nursery & Reception Open Mornings**

Prospective parents were invited to visit school during two open mornings in October and November. Both were well attended by families looking to apply for Nursery and Reception places for next September.

### **School and Sports Events**

#### **Nursery: Posting Letters to Father Christmas**

Nursery children walked to the village Post Office to post their letters to Father Christmas recently. As always, Tariq and Adam made the children very welcome as they bought stamps. The walk gave the children the opportunity to see the changes that occur in winter as well as noticing features of our village environment. They also thought carefully about how to cross Fentham Road safely.

#### **Foundation Stage: Christmas Party**

Children in Foundation stage enjoyed a joint party playing traditional games and enjoying a party snack. To the children's delight, the event was rounded off with a surprise visit from Father Christmas!

#### **Reception: Dinosaur Day**

Reception celebrated the end of their Dinosaurs topic with a Dinosaur themed day. The children were encouraged to dress up in themed clothing. We had a HUGE dinosaur visit us, we had a dinosaur dance lesson and even lunch was dinosaur themed!

In the afternoon we invited parents to come and watch the children perform a song about dinosaurs. After that the children worked with their parents to make a balloon dinosaur. We all had a really lovely time and it was particularly great to see so many parents!

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**Year 1: Church Visit**

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Class 1 went to visit our local church, St Mary and St Bartholomew. We were greeted by Reverend Stuart and took part in a very informative talk all about the church. At school, we have been learning all about Advent and Christingle. Reverend Stuart went in to great detail about Advent and we were able to light one of the candles on the Advent wreath.

Once back in school, the class carried on their learning with follow up work on Advent and by making their very own Christingle.

**Year 2: Learning Diary**

We have had a really busy time in Year 2 this term. We have continued our fantastic learning journey, focusing on the impact on the world of Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria, have loved taking the starring roles in the EYFS/KS1 Christmas Production of 'The Bossy King', voted in the School Council & Online Safety Committee elections, enjoyed external PE coaching, explored exactly what 'Bullying' is and how to use the STOP rules to help and are now looking forward to Warburton's joining us to prepare and bake bread in the first week after Christmas (postponed from Autumn 2).

**Year 3: Swimming**

The children have made fantastic progress over the course of the term with their swimming. All of the children have gained in confidence and skills and some are now able to safely swim in the deep pool. Those remaining in the shallow pool do so using minimal floatation supports. In the new year, children will receive their swimming progress awards to date. The instructors at the swimming pool are extremely pleased with all of our pupils' progress and their positive attitudes towards swimming. Well done Class 3!

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**Year 3: Sleeping Beauty**

Class 3 had a fantastic experience recently at the Belgrade Theatre where they watched *Sleeping Beauty*. The pantomime was an excellent example of a fractured tale, which linked perfectly to our learning in English early in the autumn term. All the children joined in the performance with enthusiasm and a considerable amount of booing and hissing! What a great way to start the lead up to our own Christmas performances!

**Year 4: Cheerleading Festival**

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, Year 4 took part in a Cheerleading Festival at St Peter's School competing against 12 other teams from schools across the Solihull area. Benefitting from wonderful, rousing support from family and friends, the George Fentham team were first up to perform, always a tricky position but one which did not faze our children in the slightest! They delivered a punchy, tight performance with tremendous energy and precision, synchronising their moves and producing a quite superb piece of collaboration. After watching a procession of impressive performances from the other teams we waited, with baited breath, to hear what the judges would decide... So it was thrilling to hear that our team (the only one, incidentally, with a nearly even mix of both boys and girls) had been awarded third place. What an achievement! The children should be extremely proud of themselves and were, as ever, a great credit to their families and to the school.

**Year 4: Lunt Fort**

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, Year 4 enjoyed a day at the Lunt Roman Fort. We were lucky enough to secure a taught session for the whole day and we spent the day being Celts and Romans. We found out how the Romans set about defending their conquered territories and how they dealt with the rebellious Celtic warriors. The children saw the work we have been doing in school leap into life and they thoroughly enjoyed the day. Mrs Brooker, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Kelly were so proud of the class and the education officers at the Fort could not praise the class enough for their understanding, knowledge and brilliant behaviour.

**Year 4: Dance - Musical Theatre**

This half term, Year 4 have been working on their Musical Theatre skills with Becki the coach from Aminated. The class have improved their rhythm, co-ordination skills and musicality. We choreographed a whole class routine to one of the songs from *The Greatest Showman* and "jazz hands" were very effectively used by all. Well done Year 4 - what a huge amount of fun!

**Year 5: Greek Visitor**

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November, Year 5 had an excellent day with our Greek visitor, Alexis. The children were beautifully behaved and listened well. Our visitor provided a series of activities for the children to participate in ranging from an Archimedes puzzle, a quiz (where the children had to find out the information themselves by reading facts and answering the questions), a traditional Greek board game called Petteia and a competitive game in the hall where the children had to use stealth tactics to knock down a piece of the other team's city wall! The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and came away armed with a wealth of information. Our visitor was very complimentary about the children's prior knowledge and their engagement in all of the activities. Well done, Class 5.

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**Years 5 and 6: Football Coaching**

This half term, children in years 5 and 6 have benefited from football coaching led by qualified FA coach, Simon Cooper, who is linked to Birmingham City Football Club. The children have developed their skills in passing, finding space, attacking and defending and have also played mini games. Many thanks to Simon for leading such enjoyable sessions.

**Year 6: Coventry Cathedral visit**

Year 6 have been studying World War One and Two in the local area this term. Linked to this, we visited Coventry Cathedral, for a Blitz Day, on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. The children were able to "interview" historical characters including: Provost Howard, Mrs Dingle and Jock the Fire Warden about their experiences on the night of the Coventry Blitz. This really brought our history to life and the children made copious notes on the day! The children's excellent knowledge, interest and behaviour were all commented on and a great day was had by all!

**Year 6: Visit to Lunch Club**

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, Year 6 visited the Hampton Lunch Club to interview the senior residents of the village about their memories of WW2. The children really enjoyed finding out about everyday life during WW2; this was such an invaluable experience to support our history studies. Thank you so much to the members of the Lunch Club for sharing their memories.

**Year 6: School Bankers**

Our School Bank is open every Wednesday morning from 8.30 - 9am for children, aged 7 years and over, to deposit money in their HSBC bank account. Mrs Lowe is ably assisted by a team of Year 6 children who all do a fantastic job!

**Year 6: Visit to "The Nutcracker"**

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, Year 6 had a lovely afternoon watching the Birmingham Royal Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" at the Birmingham Hippodrome. This was attended with members of the Hampton Lunch Club and kindly funded by the Fentham Trust. It was a really magical performance and we all came out feeling very "Christmassy"!

**Book Fair**

At George Fentham Endowed School, we believe that every child should be a confident and enthusiastic reader, so our Book Fairs are an important part of our commitment to reading. The autumn term book fair was very well attended by parents and children - thank you very much for your continued support. We hope you and your child have enjoyed sharing your new books. A total of £650 worth of books was sold, enabling the school to choose approx. £300 of free books, shared across all classes.

A huge thank you to all the children who entered the reading competition - we had some amazing and imaginative photos of our pupils reading in unusual locations. These will be up on display in the school after Christmas. Do come and have a look when you are in school.

**GFES Football Team**

The GFES Football team have had a busy half term with 3 excellent matches, held at Old Silhillians. The first was a tense 1 - 1 draw against Tidbury Green Primary, with both teams playing well and the opposition equalising late on. The second saw the team come against Yew Tree Primary and was a very one sided affair, with GF coming out as 9 - 0 winners. With a score of 6 nil at half time it could easily have been double figures, but after a great half time

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discussion the team decided that they would not go all out in the second half as they knew what it felt like to get well beaten. Mr Bass was so proud of this mind set and the children deserve praise and encouragement for showing great empathy and understanding for their opponents. The final match, against Berkswell (always a tough one), was a hard fought 3 - 3 draw with some outstanding play from both teams. What a way to end the term and we can't wait until the spring when we'll have at least 5 more matches. Well done all!

**School Council and Online Safety Committee Elections**

All children, from Reception up to Year 6, took part in a formal election process, choosing new representatives for both the School Council and Online Safety Committee for 2019. As part of our work on British Values, children are given opportunities to better understand the legal system and processes. By taking part in electing their own representatives, they get a small taste of what happens in the wider, adult world. Both Mrs. Edmeades and Mr. Bass are now looking forward to working with the new members to make our school even better.

**Collaborative Rural Schools - Enrichment**

This half term, as part of the Rural Solihull Schools Partnership, we have sent pupils to enrichment activities linked to Charles Dickens' literature and maths. After Christmas, we will be sending some pupils to enterprise and chess events, and we will be hosting a debating workshop here at school.

**Learning Curves**



Want to Dance and have FUN?!

Come along to the Dance class we hold at George Fentham every Wednesday after school!  
The club teachers, Katie and Gemma are fully qualified IDTA Instructors and Trained BCQ  
Cheer coaches with DBS, First Aid and Safeguarding Certification.

For more information ask for a letter at the office or contact us at

[jenn@learningcurvesdance.com](mailto:jenn@learningcurvesdance.com)

We look forward to seeing you!

**Christmas Lunch & Christmas Hat Competition**

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December children, staff and Governors all enjoyed our Christmas lunch together. A huge thank you to Mrs James, her assistants and our team of Lunchtime Supervisors for all of their hard work. As in previous years, children were invited to take part in our Christmas hat competition. This year there were some amazing hats and we loved seeing them all. As usual it was very difficult to choose winners, but after much consideration the following winners were chosen. Well done to all those children who took part!

<b>Year</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
BASE	Chloe-Belle	Daniel
Reception	Josh	Bea
1	Freya	Finley
2	Melissa	Evan
3	Matilda	Jake
4	Darcy MB	Ethan
5	Raphaelle	James E
6	Savannah	Oliver H

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**Chronicle Christmas Cover Competition**

This year the theme for the 'Christmas Chronicle Cover Competition' was 'Light'. The competition was open to the whole school and many entries from each class were gathered. Judging took place from members of the church, including Rev Stuart and Mrs Salmon. The process was extremely difficult as the standard from everyone was so high.

The winning designs were:

**Chronicle Christmas Cover**

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Bea	Year 2
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Freddie	Year 5
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Elsie	Year 1
<u>Runners Up</u>		
	Joshua	Nursery
	Lauren	Reception
	Lydia	Year 2
	Oliver	Year 4
	Freya H	Year 6

**Spring 2019 Clubs & Music Lessons**

Day	Lunchtime	After-school
Monday	Guitar Lessons Keyboard Lessons 12.15-1.15 Games Club on Playground	Football Club 3.20-4.20pm. <i>(after half term)</i>
Tuesday	KS2 Homework Club	3.20-4.20 KS2 Sports Club TBA
Wednesday	12.15-1.15 Games Club on Playground 12.45-1.15 KS1 Sports Club - TBA Strings Lessons	3.20-4.45 Learning Curves
Thursday	12.45 - 1.15 Y1 & 2 Tri-golf Saxophone Lessons	
Friday	Cello Lessons 12.15-1.15 Games Club on Playground 12.45 - 1.15 KS2 Tri-golf	3.20-4.20 Y4,5 & 6 Netball Club

**Children in Need**

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 was a Non -Uniform Day in support of Children in Need whose theme was "Do your Thing". The children dressed up in their own unique style and raised **£237.26**.

**British Legion Poppy Appeal**

The total raised for selling poppies on behalf of the British Legion was **£159.72**.



Thank you for your support.

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**The BASE**

Please be aware the BASE (Before & After School Club) will be open each morning from 7.30am. There is a possibility of spaces in the BASE for various sessions during the week. If you are interested please contact Mrs Coley at the BASE or telephone 01675 443913.

**Parent Consultations**

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Parent Consultations. This is an excellent opportunity for home and school to work in partnership together. We will be holding our second Parent Consultation evening next term and very much hope that all parents will support us by attending.

**Admission to Reception - September 2019**

The closing date for submitting your child's application is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019. If you have not yet applied and you live in Solihull, you must submit your application through the parent portal at [www.solihull.gov.uk/pp](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/pp) Applications submitted after the closing date will not be processed until after the offers have been made in April. Applying late is likely to affect the outcome to your application. If you live outside of Solihull you should contact your home council to apply.

**Mobile Phones in School**

May we remind you that mobile phones must not be used in school. The only exception to this is if parents use their phones to take photographs, of their own child, for their own personal use at the end of Class Assemblies or Performances. This is in line with our school policies and procedures. Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off and put away at any other time. Thank you for your support in this matter.

**Using Mobile Phones when driving to & from School**

It has been reported to us by a parent that other parents are dropping and collecting children at school in their cars whilst using mobile phones. May we remind you that it is an offence to use mobile phones whilst driving and when the vehicle is stationary with a running engine. The safety of our children either walking to school or within a vehicle is paramount, therefore, we ask for your support in ensuring you are not using mobile phones when driving.

**Medicines in School**

May we remind you that a medicine permission form must be completed and discussed with a member of the office staff if your child requires any medicine during the school day. It is extremely important that all medicine has the prescription label clearly displayed on the medicine, stating your child's name, dose and frequency. If this information is displayed on packaging, we will need this packaging to be supplied. This arrangement will also apply for Calpol, therefore, if your child requires Calpol during the school day the bottle must have a label with the above details.

Should you wish to discuss this in any further detail, please contact the school office.

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**Dietary Requirements / Food Allergies**

Please note it is the responsibility of Parents or Carers to advise the school office, in writing, of any dietary requirements or food allergies for each individual child. Please note this is not required for food preferences but for medical conditions such as allergies or Religious Beliefs. This information will be stored on the child's record throughout school.

**School Meals - Outstanding Debt**

**Parents of children in KS2**

Due to the flexibility of the ParentPay system allowing parents to choose which days they wish their child to have a school meal, it is important to keep your account in credit; reminders are generated daily for children who have no credit on their accounts. Please note that if a debt exceeds one week's school lunches of £10.50 (£2.10 per day) a hot meal cannot be provided until the debt is cleared and the account is in credit.

Please contact the school office if you think your child may be eligible for free school meals.

**Punctuality Update**

Our school gate opens at 8.45am each morning and is closed when the bell rings at 8.55am for children in Reception to Year 6. Registers are taken promptly at 9.00am. After the register closes any child arriving late will be awarded an unauthorised late mark. We would like to make you aware that this unauthorised mark will lower your child's overall attendance percentage and could lead to legal action. We would, therefore, ask for your support in ensuring that your child arrives on time for school every day.

Any child arriving after the gate has been closed must be taken into the school office where a member of staff will document why your child is late, sign your child in and update the class register. **All children must be accompanied at the school office and not sent in on their own to sign in as we consider this a SAFEGUARDING issue.**

Please note, Nursery children should arrive in Nursery by 9.00am and should be fully supervised on the small playground until the Nursery door is opened at 8.55am.

**Attendance and Requests for Leave of Absence**

To support us to secure good attendance for all of our pupils and to address concerns regarding any child's poor school attendance and punctuality, we are continuing to work with Central School Attendance and Welfare Service Ltd (CSAWS). Each half term, attendance registers are rigorously scrutinised to identify any attendance issues. This includes children falling below 95% attendance, children who are below 90% attendance and therefore at risk of becoming persistent absentees, children with any unauthorised absence and any punctuality concerns.

Your child may be referred to a CSAWS Attendance and Welfare Officer if their attendance and punctuality is causing concern. They will then contact you by phone, letter or home visit to discuss the school's concerns and how attendance and punctuality can be improved.

Please note, Head Teachers are only allowed to grant leave of absence in very exceptional circumstances and where the application has been made two weeks in advance. This does not include family holidays. Should you require any further information, or wish to discuss a leave of absence request please contact the school office.

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**Medical, Dental & Optician Appointments**

Following advice from CSAWS, we would like to ask for your support in organising medical, dental and optician appointments outside of the school day. Please note if there is no alternative, you may be asked to show a copy of your appointment letter or card to the school office.

**And finally.....**

As we conclude this half-term's newsletter it has been a pleasure to look back at such a busy and exciting half-term. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with the children and would like to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Mrs J Gaughan  
Head Teacher

