



Ainderby Steeple Church of England Primary School  
 Station Lane, Morton-on-Swale, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL7 9QR  
 Telephone: 01609 773519  
 E-mail: [admin@ainderbysteeples.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ainderbysteeples.n-yorks.sch.uk)  
 Headteacher: Mrs Fiona Sharp

**Letter 14**  
**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

Dear Parents/Guardian,

## **AFTER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AT SCHOOL**

Collective Worship Theme for the Week: **A New Year**

<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2017</b>	
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	Training day for staff - no children in school
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Children back at school
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	No Brass lessons
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	No group music lessons

<u>Weekly Attendance</u> 5 <sup>th</sup> December - 9 <sup>th</sup> December		<u>Weekly Attendance</u> 12 <sup>th</sup> December - 16 <sup>th</sup> December
Class 1 95%		Class 1 97.2%
Class 2 98.4%		Class 2 98.1%
Class 3 95.7%		Class 3 97.1%
Class 4 93.6%		Class 4 97.3%
<b>Highest Attendance</b> Well done to: Class 2		<b>Highest Attendance</b> Well done to: Class 2
Total school attendance for the week 95.5%		Total school attendance for the week 97.4%
<b>Total school attendance for the Autumn term 2016 is 97.5%</b>		
Please may I remind you to send a letter or email to school as soon as your child has returned to school, dated, explaining their absence for us to keep as a record at school.		

## **SCHOOL NOTICES**

### Class 3 and 4 Performances

Well done to all the children in class 3 and 4 for their wonderful performances of Bethlehem Bandits this week. They did very well to learn some complicated songs and parts with lots of words. Thank you also to both you as parents and the staff for all your hard work helping prepare the children.

### Christmas Collection

We are pleased to say that the selling of joke books written by class 2, the posting of Christmas cards in the school 5p post office and the collection at the end of each performance has raised a fantastic £330.42 for Global's make some noise. Many thanks for your generosity.



### Christmas Dinner and DVD

Thank you to Mrs Walker who was in school at 6.30am on Wednesday to prepare a delicious Christmas dinner. The children then watched the U certificate DVD 'The Secret Life of Pets'.

### Reminder: School Dinner Money Cost for the Half term

School dinners for the half term, if you wish to pay them in one block, are: **4<sup>th</sup> January - 17<sup>th</sup> February** - 33 days @ £2.10 = £69.30

### Well done Sumdog maths Contenders

Well done to everyone who entered the recent sumdog maths competition. Nearly every pupil in our school managed to answer some questions. A total of 230 classes around North Yorkshire entered and class 3 came 10<sup>th</sup> overall. Lottie from class 2 was our school sumdog champion; she came 23<sup>rd</sup> out of 2684 pupils! Pupils can continue to play for fun.

Thanks from Mr Hodgson.

### Student Teacher Class 1

In January, we welcome a student teacher Miss McNichol, who will be working in class 1. She is a student from the University of York St John and this is her final placement before she has her own class in September next year. I am sure you will all make her feel very welcome.

### Key Stage 2 Afternoon Break

After Christmas, class 3 and 4 will not be having an afternoon break. This will give us more opportunities to have a class book to read at the end of the day and have more time for the other subjects in the curriculum which currently have limited time and seem to get squeezed out. The afternoon will still be broken up by collective worship.

### New Spelling Program for Years 2-6

One of the things on our school development plan this year is spelling, with a particular focus on the implementation of spellings every day in the children's work. We find that the majority of our children are good at learning spellings for a weekly test but they don't always apply them in their work. The new writing interim statements place a high importance on spelling and children being able to show the application of accurate spellings independently in their work each day. We work very closely with schools as part of the Swaledale Teaching Schools Alliance and following discussion with them, we have decided to invest in a spelling programme called 'Read, Write Inc. Spelling'. This is being used in many schools with very good results being demonstrated. The teaching book states:

*'Read Write Inc. Spelling is a programme based on the understanding that we do have a sound-based writing system, albeit a very complex one. Everyone uses the same 44 sounds to speak all English words, though the way we write down these sounds varies. One of the keys to good spelling is to remember how to spell these sounds in different words-and this does not happen overnight... The practice of a weekly Friday spelling test has mixed results, with some children getting spellings right on the day, but forgetting them just hours later, and other children simply getting them wrong and becoming demoralised. The process of learning to spell is cumulative for most children. Only a few lucky children learn to spell effortlessly without structured teaching. Most need explicit systematic teaching that is continuously practised and reinforced, until spelling knowledge is committed to children's long-term memory. The Read Write Inc. spelling programme provides this structured, systematic teaching.'*

Children in years 2-6 will have a practice book and a spelling log. They will not be given a weekly spelling test, but may occasionally have tricky words from their spelling log written in their home/school planner for you to reinforce at home and help them to memorise. Staff will let you know what the spelling pattern is each week. They will be assessed on a half termly basis. Our aim is that all our children become more confident in their application of spellings. If you have any questions please speak to the class teacher.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

As we come to the end of another year it is a good time to reflect on what has happened in the twelve months. It has been a busy and challenging year for the school that has seen a great deal of change.

We now have our new school classroom which is a fantastic addition to the school and provides a much better learning environment for Class One. In addition we now have our new out of school club which in its first term has proven to be a successful service that many parents were wanting.

Following the SAT results last year the Headteacher, staff and governors have been working hard to develop and implement plans to improve school performance. As a voluntary controlled primary school, we have also been subject to an inspection from the Church of England Education Office. The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) report concluded that the school was "good" and provided us with an independent assessment that will help us move forward into 2017 with the challenges that the year will bring.

On behalf of the school's governing board I would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Haydn Rees Jones, Chair of Governors

## LOCAL EVENTS

### Events at St Helen's Church

11am Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December - all age worship & carol service at St Helens Church, followed by refreshments in Church.

7pm Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December - carol singing followed by the pub quiz in the Wellington Heifer.

7pm Wednesday 21st December for an Evening of Christmas Carols, Music and More at St Helens Church. This should be a great relaxed Christmas themed evening - free entry, refreshments will be available.

11.30pm Saturday 24th December - Midnight Mass at St Helens Church.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from all at St Helens

### Event at Yafforth Church

Yafforth church is holding a 'crib service' Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December where everyone is welcome to come along between 2pm and 4pm. there will be tea, cakes and a raffle. Please help decorate the church by bringing a hand crafted angel which will go on display, it will be a lovely afternoon for all the family.

## OTHER ITEMS SENT HOME TONIGHT

Spring Menu - all parents

Termly newsletter produced by class 4 - all parents

Attendance letter reminders - specific parents

We do wish you all a very Merry Christmas with family and friends and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Yours sincerely

*F. Sharp*

Mrs Fiona Sharp

