



NEWSLETTER

Happy Friday/ Christmas/ Holiday!

Christmas Performances

Over the last two weeks we have enjoyed performances from all year groups and at the time of writing we are eagerly anticipating the Year 5/6 carols at Myrtle this afternoon.

As you will have heard me saying at the performances, please do keep any photos you have taken for your own use and do not share images more widely. This includes social media and also whatsapp. Even on a closed year group whatsapp chat, circulating images of other children without parental consent is problematic so please do bear this in mind.

Winter Fair Update

Not only was the Winter Fair a lovely event, but the total is in and a combination of everyone's hard work and your generosity has resulted in a grand total of £7374.75!

This is incredible and I am so grateful for everyone's efforts. Earlier in the new year I will share details of an exciting project that PTA funding is going to enable. It is unique and very exciting. I will explain all in the first newsletter of 2024 but in the meantime, thank you again to everyone who has made it possible to improve the children's school experience by organising and supporting PTA events.

Theatre Trips

Thank you to the army of volunteers who helped walk the children to the various theatre visits this week, and to the PTA who helped to subsidise the cost of the tickets. Children across the school have been coming back absolutely buzzing from the shows they have seen and this would not have been possible without your help.

We had some lovely from the Old Vic after our Reception children had visited. The Duty Manager there said it was a pleasure to have them, saying they were the best behaved school group he's ever had at the Old Vic and commenting on how well the accompanying staff were organising them! Incidentally, this was the first group to visit, and I have no doubt the ones that followed were just as great!

The email ended with "Thanks very much for being such a lovely presence in our theatre" which is a great reflection on this lovely experience for the children.

Next Term's Dinner Menus

Just to let you know, next term's menus are now on Parentmail ready to book. Even if your child is at Merrywood, please can I encourage you to book meals as far in advance as possible? This is particularly important for children with a dietary requirement, because if a meal isn't booked for them the kitchen will not see them on the allergen report that is printed off daily. Thank you for your help with this.

Dodgeball

On Thursday of last week, there was an opportunity for some of our Year 4 children to showcase their sporting talents in no other than dodgeball! The 2 teams were very excited in their first minibus experience with the school and they carried that energy with them into the games. This event was a chance for children to participate in something a little different, but still using those same agility, balance and co-ordination skills that would be used in their more familiar sports. As a group, the children managed to win 5 out of their 6 games and were even more excited when they found out that we were going back to school on the minibus as well! There will be much more for Year 4 children to participate in 2024, so watch this space for what events come up in the New Year. Mr Rogers



Food Parcel Thanks

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this year's food parcels whether through physical or financial donations. Once again, many families are receiving welcome support and it would not be possible without the help of our supporters and of course without the hard work and leadership of the one and only Mrs Mathias. I am also really grateful to the team of staff who have been helping with delivery.

We particularly wanted to thank the following people and organisations:

Donations from Southville parents and carers
BS3 Community Development
St Thoma Mar Thoma Church
Pass The Parcel
Purely Fruit - Healthy fruit in the work place.
Unique Voice (activity packs)
Turners veg shop
Salvation Army Christmas gift appeal

Thanks to everyone's generosity we have been able to offer bigger parcels and send out a greater number than ever before. - an amazing collective show of care.



2023

What a year! 2023 has been a great year to be part of the Southville school community. It has been so good to feel the school continuing to move forward and evolve, with our values supporting some really positive changes and a strengthening in the Southville ethos of community, kindness and inclusion that we all know and love.

2024 is shaping up to be a year full of more opportunities and exciting developments as we continue to work on our new curriculum, aim for an OPAL award for our lunchtime play provision, and continue to expand what we offer our children in terms of the arts and sport - two aspects of school life that I am proud to say we are becoming increasingly well known for promoting.

Before that though, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas if you are celebrating, and to everyone a relaxing and peaceful holiday.

Andy Bowman