

Dear Parents

It has been a busy week in the Prep School with Table Tennis tournaments, a Geography field trip to Ickwell, the Eagle House Open Evening, the Y8 Gothic Evening, the Y3-5 Council meeting and the Prep Guild Christmas Sales. We were also delighted to welcome Mrs Webster, Mrs Quince and Mrs Marquand in from Pilgrims who thoroughly enjoyed lunch with the Y3 boys who went to Pilgrims, and catching up on how they have settled in to the school.

A huge thanks to all the parents who wrapped Christmas gifts and helped with the sales. It seems as though you are all in for some good gifts judging by the interest shown by the boys. The team had to restock twice because boys bought so many gifts. We think that it is great that the boys are starting the Christmas season off by thinking about giving, not just receiving.

We are looking forward to House Drama this evening, a culmination of weeks of hard work from boys and staff, and to the Y3-4 Choir singing carols at the Kiosk in Russell Park tomorrow.

Please see below for highlights for the next few weeks. Have a great weekend.

YEAR 3

Y3-4 Choir Boys, Carols in the Park, Saturday 2nd December

Thank you to all those boys who have signed up to sing at the Kiosk in Russell Park tomorrow. The boys will need to be at the Kiosk by 10am and carolling will run from 10.15 to about 10.45am after which the boys will be served refreshments. Please note that parents / guardians will need to stay with their son in the park and boys should be in uniform with coats, a woolly or Christmas hat, scarf and gloves. The boys have been practising hard, so we hope they, and you, enjoy the morning. We look forward to seeing you.

Y3-4 Carol Service, Monday 11th December, 4.30pm in the School Chapel

We are very much looking forward to our Carol Services which take place in the last week of term. All boys are expected to attend the Carol Service and must wear white shirts; parents and family are most welcome. The Chapel will be open from 4.15pm and we ask parents to please be seated by 4.30pm. Please do join us in the EMH after the service for mulled wine and mince pies. For any parents unable to attend, please would you collect your son from

the EMH between 5.30 and 5.45pm. Boys should make sure that they know the arrangements for getting home after the service/reception. A collection for school charities will be made at the end of the service.

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Hungry Boys' Club in the Spring Term

Our popular cookery club, the Hungry Boys' club takes place on Tuesdays after school. Mrs Carrington would now like to open the club up to boys in Years 4, 5 and 6. For further details on the club and for information on how your son can sign up please see [here](#). Please note that places are limited.

YEAR 5

Y5 Choir Singing at Soupfest, Tuesday 5th December

All boys from the Y5 Choir will be singing at a fundraising event for Bedford's homeless in Harpur Square on Tuesday from 12.30 - 1pm. Taking place during their lunchtime, the boys will be escorted by staff down to Harpur Square and then walked back. Please can the boys

singing wear white shirts. Do come along and listen to the boys if you can. There will be hot soup for sale with the money raised going to Bedford's homeless charities.

Y5-6 Trip to Tignes, July 2018

Last week we added a short questionnaire to gauge interest in a trip to Tignes to replace the Bude trip. As we explained, the company who we normally go to in Bude let us down at the last minute, and good venues are booked up at least a year in advance. Land and Wave, based in Dorset, have offered us an opportunity for a bespoke trip to Tignes, which will cost in the region of £850 (more expensive than Bude to take account of flights).

So far we have 50 responses (with 30 either very or quite likely to come, and 20 not likely). Before we go ahead with further planning, we would like to hear from anyone who has not yet responded. Details can be found [here](#) to help you decide, and then we would be very grateful if you were able to complete a very short [questionnaire](#) to indicate whether or not your son would be very likely, quite likely or not likely to attend the trip. We will need to make a decision in the next week or so, as we will have to ask teachers to make themselves available in the first week of their holiday, and would like give parents as much time as possible to finalise summer plans.

Y5 Pantomime Trip, Wednesday 13th December

We are looking forward to our trip to Milton Keynes theatre in the final week of term to watch Cinderella with the Y5 boys. Please see Mr Affleck's letter [here](#) with the final arrangements.

Y5-6 Carol Service, Tuesday 12th December, 4.30pm in the School Chapel

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Y5-8 Mid-year Assessments, January 2018

Please note that Years 5-8 have Mid-year assessments from 19th - 24th January. We wholeheartedly encourage boys to relax and enjoy the Christmas holidays. Therefore, the week prior to the assessments we have introduced 'study skills week'. During study skills week, boys will not be taught any new material in examined subjects but instead will be taught the relevant study skills and strategies in the respective academic disciplines in order for them to be able to revise effectively in school with their teachers. They will also have time to revise. We suggest that boys do not revise over Christmas. Instead they should enjoy a good book, relax and enjoy the break.

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YEAR 7

Y7 Planetarium / Observatory Visits, Mon 4th Dec, Mon 11th Dec

Boys who have signed up to the Planetarium visit on Monday 4th or Monday 11th December should have suitable (warm) clothing. We will assemble outside the Wells Building after school and then the boys will be accompanied up past Chapel and will access the observatory from the gates halfway down Pemberley Avenue (next to Phillpotts boarding house). Please pick the boys up from these gates too, at around 5.45pm. (Boys who are not collected at 5.45pm will be taken back down to the Prep School).

Y7-8 Disco at Bedford Girls' School, Thursday 7th December, 7 - 9pm

Tickets are now available from reception for the Christmas Disco being held at the Girls' School on Thursday. Tickets are priced at £5 and bottles of water are being sold at 50p each if they want to bring some money. Parents should park in the astro car park at the front of the school and walk in via the bursary gates.

Y7-8 Carol Service, Thursday 14th December, 4.30pm in the School Chapel

We are very much looking forward to our Carol Services which take place in the last week of term. All boys are expected to attend the Carol Service and must wear white shirts; parents and family are most welcome. The Chapel will be open from 4.15pm and we ask parents to please be seated by 4.30pm. Please do join us in the EMH after the service for mulled wine and mince pies. For any parents unable to attend, please would you collect your son from the EMH between 5.30 and 5.45pm. Boys should make sure that they know the arrangements for getting home after the service/reception. A collection for school charities will be made at the end of the service.

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ALL PS YEAR GROUPS

Carols at the Kiosk in Russell Park, Saturday 2nd December

Our Y3 and 4 Choir boys have been invited to sing at the Kiosk in Russell Park tomorrow morning. All parents are invited to come along and support the boys. It's always a lovely way to start the festive season. The boys will be singing from 10.00 - 11.00am.

Christingle Service at St Peter's Church, Sunday 3rd December

Our neighbours, St Peter's Church, are having a Christingle service at 4pm on Sunday to focus on a charity which is dear to our hearts, Save the Children. They ask us to extend an invitation to all boys and parents. There is an opportunity to make Christingles at 3.15pm in the Chapter House. They have other services throughout the Christmas season including Nine lessons and Carols on 19th December at 7pm.

Soupfest, Tuesday 5th December, 11am - 4pm in Harpur Square, Bedford town centre

Bedford School is one of the many local businesses involved in 'SoupFest', which will take place in Bedford's Harpur Square on Tuesday. Our school chef, helped by a group of boys, will be serving up hot soup, along with other local chefs to raise money for Bedford's homeless people. Local bakeries will be donating fresh bread and there will be live music, including carols sung by our Y5 Prep School Choir. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in the fun. Soup and bread can be bought for a minimum donation of £3, so save a space in your tummy and enjoy the delicious soups on offer. More information can be found [here](#).

Celebration of the newly refurbished Library, Friday 8th December at 4.30pm

Next Friday, 8th December, at 4.30pm, our Patron of Reading, Steve Skidmore, will be joining us to celebrate the refurbishment of the Inky library. We feel that this is a good time to celebrate and promote reading, with our first visit of our new Patron of Reading and the increasing success of the Accelerated Reader programme. During the day, Steve, who has visited the school recently with his writing partner, will be conducting writing workshops with Year 8 pupils, and he will join us afterwards in the library. He will also have some books with him if any boys did not manage to buy one last week and would like one signed, just remember to bring your money in (the books are £5.) We will be inviting a boy from each tutor group to attend the event, and other boys and parents are most welcome to join us for a cup of tea and look round the refurbished library. If you would like to come, we ask that you please do not park in the pick-up area in the Prep School but in the Burnaby Road car park. Thank you.

PS Uniform Policy

Can we please remind you that only school uniform coats and hats should be worn in school. Please see the uniform checklist [here](#).

'Christmas in a Box' Charity Appeal

One of the charities the school would like to help this Christmas is the 'Christmas in a Box' Charity [Appeal](#) run by Bedford Foodbank and All Nations Church, which aims to provide local people in crisis with hampers at Christmas. Next week, each form will divide up the items on the suggested shopping list (items include a box of chocolates or a carton of custard for example) and we are asking each boy to contribute one or two items from the list, if possible. One boy will also be asked to contribute a box wrapped in Christmas paper. The items need to be brought in **by Wednesday 6th December**. We hope the appeal will not

only help 26 local families but also raise awareness among the boys about the difficulty many families face at Christmas time.

Bedfordshire Refugee & Asylum Seeker Support Toy Appeal

Another charity the school would like to help this Christmas is the BRASS charity on Tavistock Street. They are collecting new or nearly new toys to give out to the children at their Christmas party. This might be a good opportunity to sort through the boys' bedrooms to make room for any new toys they might receive this Christmas. Please could any donated toys or gifts be handed in to Prep Reception **by Friday 8th December**.

Chapel Choir CD now available to buy

The Chapel Choir Christmas CD is now available. Here is a short promotional video of one of the CD tracks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHu9OnMIN7Q&feature=youtu.be>. This is an ideal Christmas present for friends and relatives! If you wish to buy copies they are available from the school shop for £10. Boarders can get a chit signed by housemasters and have the cost blue-billed. For day boys who want multiple copies but don't want to bring cash into school, parents can ring through and pay by card. Either call in to the shop in person or purchase online here: <http://www.bedfordschoolshop.co.uk/a-bedford-christmas-634-p.asp>

Saturday Morning Timetable, Tuesday 12th December

Just a reminder that it's Saturday morning timetable on Tuesday 12th December for our Y6-8 boys, so the boys need to bring in Saturday morning's books that day.

Prep School Christmas Lunch, Tuesday 12th December

We are looking forward to the Prep School Christmas lunch on Tuesday 12th December. To get into the festive spirit, boys may come to school on that day in a Christmas jumper if they have one (over their normal school shirt and still wearing school trousers / shorts.)

Early finish on Friday 15th December

Just a reminder that school finishes at 11.55am on the last day of term and there is no late room on that day.

Start Date	Start Time	End Time	Description
01/12/2017	13:00	13:30	Y3-5 School Council meeting

02/12/2017	08:00	12:30	U11A rugby tournament at Rushmoor
02/12/2017	10:00	11:00	Carols at the Kiosk (Y3-4 Choir)
04/12/2017			2nd Language modules change over
05/12/2017	12:00	13:00	Y5 House Squash
07/12/2017	16:30	17:30	Table Tennis : U12A - Wixams Academy (A)
07/12/2017	16:30	17:30	Table Tennis : U13A v Lincroft School (H)
07/12/2017	19:00	21:00	Y7-8 disco at BGS
08/12/2017			Patron of reading to work with Y8 classes
08/12/2017	16:30	17:30	Official opening of the Inky Library
11/12/2017	16:30	17:30	Y3-4 Carol Service
11/12/2017	17:30	18:30	Mulled Wine & Mince Pies reception for Y3-4 parents and boys
12/12/2017	08:40	12:35	Saturday Morning Timetable
12/12/2017	11:45	12:30	Prep School Christmas Lunch
12/12/2017	14:00	15:30	Y3-4 Magic Show with BGS
12/12/2017	16:30	17:30	Y5--6 Carol Service
12/12/2017	17:30	18:30	Mulled Wine & Mince Pies reception for Y5-6 parents and boys
13/12/2017	11:30	16:00	Y5 Pantomime trip
14/12/2017	16:30	17:30	Y7-8 Carol Service
14/12/2017	17:30	18:30	Mulled Wine & Mince Pies reception for Y7-8 parents and boys
15/12/2017			Y5,Y6 & Y7 Ski trip departs
15/12/2017	11:55		Prep School Term ends

For the full calendar please click [here](#)

For sports fixtures please click [here](#)

For Speech & Drama lessons next week please see [here](#)

This term's letters are also available to view in the Parents' section on the school website on the [Parents' Letters Page](#)

For details on all the concerts, exhibitions and lectures this term, please see the [What's On Page](#)