# Marldon C of E Primary School

**Within the love of God, working together, growing together, for all to flourish.**

## December 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the Christmas break, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas. As usual, it has been a busy first term and the children have all done an amazing job. A special well done to all of our new starters, who have settled in really well this term.

**House Points Champions:**

Congratulations to Thistle House (Blue) who have collected the most house points this half term. As a reward for this, children in Thistle house will be invited to wear non-uniform on the first Friday of the new year – Friday 5th January.

**Key Stage 1 Nativity:**

What a fantastic performance Key Stage 1 gave us with this year's Nativity – Born in a Barn. To see the children sing, dance and perform with such confidence is always a pleasure and it was lovely to see so many friends and family supporting the children at the performances.

**Rudolph Runs:**

Thank you all so much for your support with this event – we are still awaiting the official total - but to date with your generosity, we have raised over £1200! An absolutely staggering total which will support Rowcroft Hospice to continue with the fantastic care they provide.

**Mental Health:**

A Message from Mrs Harding our Federation Mental Health lead:

With the festive period fast approaching, this exciting but exhausting time can take its toll on our mental health. We encourage our children to know and practice the 10 a day tips for good physical and mental health and they are great for adults too!

The 10 a day are:

1 Talk about your feelings

2 Take a break

3 Keep yourself hydrated

4 Keep active in mind and body

5 Stay connected to those you care about

6 Ask for help

7 Actively care for others

8 Be proud of your very being

9 Do something you enjoy and are good at

10 Eat well

To read more about looking after our mental health at Christmas, follow this link to The World Mental Health Foundation's ideas. www.https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/explore

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mental-health/blogs/tips-looking-after-yourmental-health-christmas

**Christmas Tree and Food collection:**

A big thank you to year 5 for designing the decorations for our Christmas Tree this year and to everyone that sent in food items to put below it. The food will be delivered to the Foodbank at Southfield Church who will distribute it through the festive period.

**Application for Primary School Places:**

Applications for Primary school places, for admission into Primary School in September 2024, opened on 15th November.

You can apply for a place if your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020. Applications are completed online at: https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place/ - if you live in Devon or

https://www.torbay.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/admissions/primary-admissions/ if you live in Torbay.

**Applications must be completed by 15th January 2024** or they will be considered as late and you may not get a place for your child in a school of your choice.

**A message from Revd Jane:**

It has been a tonic to see the children mark various seasonal events this term. I hope you & they manage quality time off together over the holidays.

You are very welcome to come to any or all of the following – see what suits!

· 'Follow the Star' Advent Trail around the village: see posters around the village/social media/collect a map from Marldon Newsagents.

· Carol Singing Sat 16th Dec 10am-12 noon outside the local shops: for charity.

· Community Carol Service on Mon 18th Dec 7pm, with mulled wine & mince pies.

· Children & Families Christmas Star Craft Morning on Tues 19th Dec 10am -12noon in Church. Take away what you make! No charge. Donations welcome.

· Christmas Eve 3pm Christingle Service

· Christmas Eve 11pm Holy Communion

· Christmas Day 10am Family Communion

**Planned Absence:**

Please remember that you must notify school of any period of planned absence. This needs to be done through collecting and completing an S2

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request form from the school office. At this time, can I also remind you that we are only able to authorise requests if there are 'exceptional circumstances.' Devon County Council's advice is that we must be extremely cautious about approving any requests if a pupil's education is likely to be significantly impacted upon.

It is important that these forms are handed in with adequate time to respond as any unauthorised absence will likely result in a penalty notice or court summons being issued to each parent for each pupil affected.

**Important Dates:**

| | |
|---|---|
| January: | |
| Tuesday 2nd | First day of Spring Term |
| February: | |
| Friday 9th | Last day of Spring 1st half term |
| Monday 19th | First day of Spring 2nd half term |
| March: | |
| Thursday 28th | Last Day of Spring Term |

All that is left from me is to say thank you for all of your support in 2023, have a lovely Christmas and we will look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Kind regards,

Jon Arnold

Head of School