

# Headteacher Newsletter – December 2021

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So... after a challenging two weeks with a Covid-19 outbreak and staff numbers and pupil numbers at an all time low, we then had a visit from the Ofsted Inspection team. Not a week we would have chosen but none the less we welcomed the chance to show off what our school offers, the children we have and the wide range of opportunities we give the children. Luckily we were down to just 19 children off ill and only single figures of Covid cases.

The Inspection was a Section 8 which means that as a 'Good' school, the inspector was looking for evidence to confirm that we continue to be a 'Good' school (it is 5 years since our last inspection). The Inspection is a very thorough 2 days where they look into the Quality of Education, Safeguarding, Behaviour and Wellbeing. They looked into the areas of Reading, Maths and Geography in particular. The idea is that they chat with me, then subject leaders, then other teachers, children and governors to check that we are all saying the same thing, that practice is fully embedded and that the children are safe.

Whilst the outcome of the inspection is confidential until the short report is published in a month or so, I can tell you that the feedback was very complimentary about all areas. The children were engaged and focused, they were keen to talk about how much they enjoy school, how kind the staff are – one child said that teachers are so kind and all the children try hard to be like them.

Behaviour was strong, as was provision for all abilities including those children with additional needs. Governance and accountability were strengths as was the Quality of Education provided. They saw that the children have a good start in Reception and that this builds all the way through the school. There were of course one or two areas to work on and develop further.

As I have said before, I feel fortunate to lead such a caring and ambitious school and to have a community of staff, governors, pupils and children who all work together to do the very best for every child in our care. I think everyone will be ready for a little lie in at the weekend!

Thank you to you all for the kind wishes, votes of confidence, treats and cards. They really were appreciated.

## Absence and attendance:

Thank you for helping us to contain the Covid infection spread by keeping your children at home if they had any symptoms during the two week Fire Break. Now cases are hugely reduced and no new infections reported for a week, we are expecting all children to be back in school. Having had a chat with WSCC attendance team, they are very clear that children should be in school now unless they have Covid, are shielding or are waiting for a PCR result following symptoms. Many thanks.

## Dates for your diary:

**16. 12.21** Christmas Lunch  
**16.12 .21** Visit from Santa  
**16.12.21** Class parties  
**17.12.21** Last day of term

## General info:

**Website:** All information is regularly updated on the school website [www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk](http://www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk)

**Facebook:** Please go on to our school website [www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk](http://www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk) and click on the Facebook icon. Click the 'like' button on the page to ensure you receive updates.

**Children in Need:** Thank you for your donations, we raised £216

**Deanery Advent charity:** We raised £396 for the Deanery School's charity. This will really help support the charity at The Osborne Trust. Thank you.

**Christmas lunch:** Children are welcome to wear home clothes and Christmassy outfits on this day.

**Covid update:**

We have now seen a real improvement in the Covid cases in school – thank goodness!

We currently have only 6 children who are off with Covid and have had no new cases this week. Miss Fessey in Year 2 also had a negative PCR and the rest of the staff are all now back.

Let us hope this is the start of a calmer and healthier last week in school. Thank you for supporting us during the two week Fire Break and doing all you can to help us minimise the spread.

We have had 57 children test positive over the last three weeks. That must be a record somewhere!

I am very grateful to our staff too who have continued to be flexible and committed and who just ‘step in where they are needed’. They do this because they care about the school and the children.

Apologies to those parents who have caught it from their child!

**Instagram:**

We have launched our school Instagram account. You can follow us on:

#st\_philips\_arundel

**NSPCC assembly:**

This week the children will watch the NSPCC assembly led by Ant and Dec about how to speak out if they are worried about anything. The link was sent home at the beginning of the week for parents to look at and contact us if they had any concerns.

After hearing two girls talking in the corridor about the case of Arthur Labinjo- Hughes, it is really important that we talk to the children about these large events and reassure them. The two girls were very anxious about it. It may be worth just checking in with your child about the case of this poor little boy. Children will have seen it on the news at home and heard parents and other children talking about it.

**Houses:**

House point scores for this week:

Houses	Weekly scores
Howard	221
Brotherton	359
Warrenne	296
Fitzalan	267

**Raffle:**

We raised £3100 in the raffle organised by the School Council. Thank you very much for making such an effort to sell tickets and of course for the raffle prize donations. The class that sold the most tickets was Class 5. They will now be able to choose their own reward for the class (within reason!).

The money will be used for experiences, events and visitors for the children.

**Elf Day:**

Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 will all enjoy their Elf Day tomorrow. They are coming into school dressed in red and green and will enjoy a range of activities from writing letters to Santa, cracking the Christmas code in Maths and of course using A LOT of glitter to make Christmas artefacts.

**Christmas Service and Nativity:**

We do continue to be thwarted at every turn with our celebrations. Just as we lifted the restrictions for singing this week so classes could rehearse in their Bubble, we had an inspection which meant all classes needed to be back on timetable and not rehearsing.

I know the staff are trying their very best to produce something to send home to parents on Google Classroom. We will let you know when this is ready to access.

**Voice trials:**

We have rescheduled the date that Elizabeth Stratford from Arundel Cathedral Choir will come into school and voice test the children. This will be in the new year due to restrictions in school.