



Headteacher's Newsletter – January 2018

Dear Parent & Carers,

Welcome back to everyone! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and look forward to hearing all about it. I would like to thank you for all your cards and presents which you have so very kindly given to the staff over the last few weeks before the holidays. Here are a few things which we took part in before Christmas.

Rotary Club Visit

On Wednesday the 6th of December at 10 am, Father Christmas, his sleigh and three friendly elves arrived at Mill Water School. The weather was bright, and the children were able to go outside to meet our special visitors in the school playground. The sleigh was, obviously, too big to get through the school doors!

The children were so excited to hear the Christmas songs, see the sleigh and meet the merry band from the North Pole. Father Christmas gave out the presents to 100 Mill Water School pupils and the elves ensured the experience was special for each individual child. The joy and the fun the children had was shown on their faces and in their reaction to this very special experience.



It was a wonderful and happy morning, enjoyed by all the pupils and staff at Mill Water School.

A Big thank you to Father Christmas and the lovely elves for finding time, at this very busy time of year, to come and visit our school.



We would also like to say a huge thank you to the Otter Valley Rotary Club, who wrote to the North Pole to arrange and fund this very special morning for our children and to also thank Ken, Mike, Linda, Jill and Chris for ensuring everything ran smoothly.

Carol Service at St Peter's Church Budleigh & Lower School and EYFS Nativities

In the week before we broke up for Christmas, Mill Water held its Senior Carol Service at St Peter's Church in Budleigh Salterton. The choir stole the show, performing some old favourites including 'Rudolph the red nose reindeer', 'Santa Claus is coming to town' and 'We wish you a merry Christmas'. Instead of the traditional readings, a group of pupils from the Upper School read a selection of festive poems which they had practiced in class. The event was hosted by Louise and Gio, two Class 11 pupils who guided the audience expertly through the service. We were very grateful to the volunteers for providing teas, coffees and mince pies after the service, and would like to thank James McAdam, the Youth Minister, for his kind support and for allowing us to use the church.

The Lower School and EYFS also performed their Christmas nativities for parents and friends. This year the Early Years classes based their Christmas performance around the music they have listened to and songs they have been singing as part of their music sessions with Emma from the Music House project. All events were very well attended and hugely enjoyed.

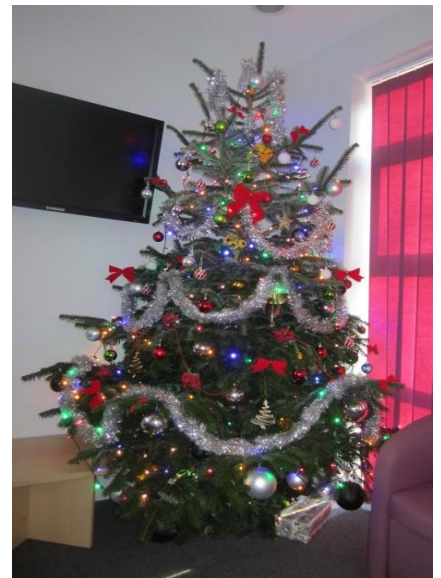
Friends of Mill Water PTFA

The PTFA were delighted to welcome some new members to our meeting this month. Our next meeting is at 9:45am on Tuesday 16th January at school.

This term we have successfully acquired grant funding from the Battishorne Trust for the installation of a defibrillator at school.

We have also been chosen again as a Coop funding partner for 2018 and will continue to actively seek external funding and support.

A real highlight this half term was our Christmas Fair and Raffle. The raffle was our biggest to date and special thanks must go to Sarah Steggles for all of the hard work that she put in. We are still finalising the total raised and look forward to sharing this information with you. Both our school and the wider community have been so generous in your support. From the Butcher family's delicious Christmas cakes to the gorgeous tree and plants from King's Garden Centre. We are incredibly grateful, thank you.



To keep up to date please see our Facebook page Mill Water School PTFA.

We'd love to hear your ideas and views on all things PTFA related, please message us or email mariascholey@gmail.com / pennybain220@gmail.com.

Parent Yoga

Dates for parent yoga for the New Year are:

- 8th January 2018
- 5th February 2018
- 5th March 2018

Please contact Charlie Palmer by email charlieyogadevon@gmail.com and mobile **07982 404421**

Please make contact at least 1 day in advance to book on as there are only 4 spaces. The session will be in a bespoke yoga room and includes complimentary tea and time for chat.

Dates for your diary

PTFA Meeting	Tuesday 16 th January 2018	9.45am
Parent Working Party	Tuesday 16 th January 2018	11.30am
Parents Evening	Wednesday 17 th & Thursday 18 th January 2018	3.30-5.15pm

Useful Information

We will be receiving copies of Digital Parenting magazine in the New Year which will be coming home in your child's bag. For now, here is the link to the magazine on our website.

http://www.millwater.devon.sch.uk/web/online_safety_1/258979



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) How does it work in Devon?

Sessions for parent carers

What support is there for children with SEND?

What is 'assess, plan, do, and review'?

What do all these changes mean for me and my family?

What is the SEND Local Offer?

We will help you to understand the system in Devon.
To book a place, click on the Eventbrite link.

<https://exmouthsendinfoevent.eventbrite.co.uk>

Date: Monday 29th January 2018

Time: 10am-12noon

Venue: Withycombe Raleigh Primary School
Exmouth
EX8 3BA

For more information, call 01392 383000 ask for SEND Local Offer
Email: sendlocaloffer@devon.gov.uk

