



Lydeard St Lawrence  
**SCHOOL NEWS**

Autumn 2011

24<sup>th</sup> November

**HELP WANTED!**

Mrs Foyle is unable to play for us at our performances this year, due to family commitments, and Mrs Thompson was going to take her place. Unfortunately, Mrs Thompson is unwell and will not be at work for the next two weeks, so will miss the performances and Christingle service.

Do you know of anyone who is a confident pianist or organist, who might be able to help us out? Failing this are any of you techie enough to put together a sound tape that will not require constant stopping and re starting so that we might have the semblance of continuity!

Please contact Sarah in the office if you have up to now been modest about such talents...

Miss Donovan and I will be covering most of the time in Class 3 where possible and I am sure the children will help us get everything running smoothly. Mr Bawden, the new teacher in class 3, will be in school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December and will be in class after school for an informal meeting to say hello and give you an opportunity to meet him.

Another 'wanted'! If any of you have a large food mixer (a Kenwood or similar) that is sitting in a cupboard unused, we would like to recycle it for a reasonable payment. I thought I would ask before we go and buy a new one. We will have it safety checked and tested before it is used in school.

We have been fortunate enough to have an author working with us in Class 3 for two days, as part of the Threshold Prize application made by the school. Some of the children are hoping to present their poetry to you in good work assembly at the end of term, so do join us.

We are all looking forward to the Christmas Fair next Friday. Do come and support the PTFA and let the children have some Christmas fun, starting at 6.00pm in the school. Please park as thoughtfully as you can at such a busy time, so that you do not block in our neighbours.

Requests have gone out for evergreens to make the Christmas wreaths (see the PTFA note) and I hope by then to have put together a school calendar. I have had to give up waiting for all the children to be in school, so I will take the photos on Monday and update particular months if there are children missing, later in the week. Orders will be taken on Friday evening for collection the following week, which should give time for posting to relatives if necessary.

I said I would send an outline of the Christmas activities on the back of the last newsletter, but the end of the day came before I could do that!

Our Christmas performances are on Monday 5<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

The children will need to be in their classrooms on 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm, to give them plenty of time to get changed and probably very excited... The performance will take under an hour, so if you are collecting your children, you need to be here by 8.00pm at the latest. If we need to amend this after the first performance, we will let you know.

Please bring your tickets with you, as we are full on both evenings, and only people with tickets will be allowed in for Health and Safety reasons. There will be exactly the right number of seats to accommodate you (even if some of them are a bit small!) If you cannot use your tickets for any reason, please return them to Sarah or call the office, as there is still a list of people who would like extra tickets.

You can show your appreciation for all the children's hard work by contributing to a collection at the end of the performance for a charity of their choice; so please don't come out with empty pockets!

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> at 4.00pm we have our Candlelit service and Christingle in the church, in support of the Children's Society. Reception children will be providing the tableau, and the older children will read the Christmas story. It is a very traditional carol service with the extra excitement of flames when we light the Christingles! All the children will be making Christingles in school next week, and I would be grateful if you would send a contribution of 50p to school to cover the cost of the oranges, sweets, candles etc. If you have younger children, who will be joining us for the service, please feel free to bring along a candle or Christingle for them to light. We usually have some spare Christingles on the night to share. There will be mulled wine and mince pies immediately after the service to keep out the cold on your journey home.

The Christmas lunch is on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December in the school. I am grateful to Tara McNeish for offering to cook this in school, so that we do not have to have a meal transported in this year. The children all eat together in the hall, including those with packed lunches, so that we can all enjoy the crackers and party poppers and general excitement. The children are served by the staff and enjoy celebrating with their friends.

Class parties are on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>, and children are asked to bring along a contribution for the party. Lists will be up on the Classroom doors for you to see what the children would like, and the class teachers organise games and music for these class parties. We may even have a special visitor in the afternoon...

Good Work Assembly will be the last shared event of the term, in school at 1.30 on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December, and we look forward to seeing you there to share some of the work the children have been doing through this half term.

Term ends on Friday and the children will back on **5<sup>th</sup> January**. It seems impossible to get all this done in just a few weeks, but every year we seem to manage it!

I hope to see you at one or all of these events.

Have a good weekend,

Gill Stripp  
Headteacher.