

# Pegswood Primary School News

<http://www.pegswood.northumberland.sch.uk/website>

Issue 12

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December

## Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas Fair last week on a very wet night. The teddy tombola appeared to be very popular and some of you may have found yourselves returning home with more teddies than you cleared out in the first place! As ever, Santa was popular with everyone and his grotto looked amazing. Thank you to everyone who helped on the night or in the run up to it. A total of £785 was raised.



## Bookshop

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our bookshop on Tuesday. Lots of children used their attendance rewards to buy books. Thank you to Mrs Layton for organising it.

## School Gateway

After many months of trying to work with ParentMail to move our communications and payment methods online, we unfortunately have had to change user. The new provider is called School Gateway and we have spoken to many schools in our area that use it and are very happy with it. Mrs Stanton is currently undergoing training from the company and we hope that the payment system will be up and running very early in the New Year. You will be getting a separate letter about this at a later date.

In the meantime, our text communication is up and running and we are hoping to be able to email through School Gateway very soon. However, we need your help! If you have a smartphone, please would you download the School Gateway App. The registration is easy – type in your email address that school has, your mobile phone number that school has and you will then receive a four digit pin number. Log in by typing your email address and the four digit pin number (you can change the pin number you are sent to a more memorable one if you wish after you have logged in). You should then be able to see your child. If you are able to do this it would help us by halving the cost of texts that we send out. At this stage, this is all you need to do and as soon as elements of the service are developed you will be able to access more through the App. If you do not have a smartphone, you will continue to receive text messages in the normal way.



Schoolgateway

If you have not yet given Mrs Stanton your email address, please can I urge you to do that as School Gateway will become the single way that school will be communicating to you. Please see attached letter.



## **Attendance**

Over the term since September, our overall school attendance has steadily dropped to around 95%. Currently this is some way off our target of 96+%. I appreciate that at this time of year children pick up bugs and sicknesses and when they are sick, they shouldn't be in school. However, if they are minor coughs or colds, please can you endeavour to bring your child to school. It may seem like just the odd day, but odd days throughout the year add up to lost learning. If a child's attendance is 90% or lower they are classed as persistently absent by the government. We work closely with the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) for our area and persistent absence will result in the Local Authority becoming involved. Coming to school regularly sets good patterns and there is strong evidence to show that missed days affect the children now and in the future. Thank you for your help in this.

## **Adverse weather arrangements**

Although we have had relatively mild weather so far, we may not be so lucky after the Christmas break. We would like to confirm arrangements for those times when we need to close school at short notice.

- All parents/carers will be sent a text message.
- A notice will be posted on the school website as soon as possible ([www.pegswood.northumberland.sch.uk/site](http://www.pegswood.northumberland.sch.uk/site))
- Parents/carers can also check the school closure on the Northumberland County Council website ([www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk))
- Parents/carers can also listen to frequent updates on Radio Newcastle

**Parents/carers should presume that school is open at all times unless the above information is received.**

If you have changed emergency contact details or mobile phone numbers, please keep school informed.

## **Diary Dates**

8 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	Key Stage 1 performance – school
9 <sup>th</sup> December	6.00pm	Key Stage 2 Carol Concert – St Margaret's Chapel
10 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Foundation Stage Nativity Dress Rehearsal - school
10 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	Key Stage 2 Carol Concert – St Margaret's Chapel
10 <sup>th</sup> December	6.00pm	Key Stage 1 performance - school
11 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Foundation Stage Nativity - school
14 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00am – 10.00am	Key Stage 1 Angel Fest parent workshop – main hall
14 <sup>th</sup> December	1.00pm	Nursery & Reception Christmas party (No morning Nursery)
15 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00am – 10.00am	Key Stage 2 Angel Fest parent workshop – main hall
15 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00am – 10.00am	Reception Angel Fest parent workshop – Year 6 classroom
15 <sup>th</sup> December	PM	Key Stage 1 Christmas party
16 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day
17 <sup>th</sup> December	PM	Key Stage 2 Christmas party
18 <sup>th</sup> December	3.00pm	School closes for Christmas holidays
4 <sup>th</sup> January		School closed for teacher training day
5 <sup>th</sup> January	8.55am	School opens for Spring term

