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Friday 7th December 2018

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*Dear Reform Club,*

*I am writing this epistle whilst in transit across the vast American plains. The journey since my last correspondence has again been beset by perils on all sides, beginning with disembarking in San Francisco in the midst of a fractious political rally. I fear for the political elite of the United States! Stumbling through this chaos, a disagreeable fellow by the name of Colonel Proctor barged the dear Princess Aouda; an affront to my honour for which he will pay dearly.*

*This, though, will have to happen later, with the pressing concern being the traverse of this great continent. Our journey was nearly halted in dramatic fashion when faced with an insecure bridge that threatened to collapse under the weight of the train. Having narrowly survived that adventure we were then attacked by bandits and only Passepartout's quick thinking and the cavalry of Fort Kearney saved the train from running out of control.*

*Presently we are travelling between Omaha and New York, where we hope to catch a steamer bound for Liverpool, bound for Blighty and bound for the successful completion of our wager.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Phileas Fogg*

Dear Parents,

As our journey around the world draws to a close we've had another very busy week. It began with special STEM workshops on the theme of transport.



Key Stage 2 turned their hands to making cars from K'Nex to specific design challenges while Key Stage 1 got a little wet testing their Crafty Rafts.

Tuesday saw the focus switch from science to dance as the children undertook a Bollywood dance workshop.



There were some very elegant moves demonstrated by the children and I was impressed to see a number of these included in last night's Christmas Disco! We had wonderful evening with some impressive dancefloor skills on display and a very sweaty dining room by the end!

The week has otherwise been dominated by our play rehearsals as we put the final touches to next week's productions. The sets, songs and acting are really coming together, and we are really looking forward to welcoming you to next week's shows.

## Foundation and Reception

The children in Reception have been working really hard this week rehearsing for their Christmas performance. They are beginning to get very excited about performing for their families; let's hope that stage fright doesn't affect them on performance days.

In the meantime, the children in Nursery have had a wonderful time in the new "home" corner in the role play area. The children have been taking on roles ranging from puppies to babies and they have been deeply engrossed in their play for long periods of time.

The children finally completed their sugar cube igloo which unfortunately collapsed last week.

They took great care gluing every cube together whilst safely keeping their fingers away from the glue.



## Year 1 and 2

Amongst all the rehearsals for the production, crafty raft STEM workshop and Indian dancing, Year 1 and 2 have done some fantastic work this week. They ventured to their final destination 'Canada' and started to compare the different landscapes, particularly human and physical features. This stood them in good stead for a problem which Father Christmas gave them. After visiting Harvey Slumfenburger on Roly Poly mountain, he had to unexpectedly go back to Canada to stay, though unfortunately the Wig Wam he was to stay in was leaking. He asked Year 1 and 2 for help to find the best waterproof material for him to fix it. They investigated how different materials were waterproof and also how to make it a fair test. Using their results, they were able to then make a model Wig Wam to send to Father Christmas to show him what he could use.

Christmas is all about acts of goodwill, not necessarily just about presents. After much discussion about the best Christmas gifts they could receive this Christmas, Becca Edwards explained that the only gift that some people would like at Christmas would be to spend time with loved ones. Unfortunately, some people don't get to do this and have to work. So to try and spread messages of appreciation, they sent out some Christmas cards to local services, such as A&E, firefighters, police and veterinary centres to say thank you for all their hard work over the festive period. They did manage to find some 'down time' at the end of the week, adding to their set design for the play, all will be revealed next week!

## Year 3

Amongst the excitement of making moving cars, creating a celebratory Indian dance and of course play rehearsals, year 3 have still managed to contemplate how people knew that the world was round, before the days of planes or rockets. They worked out that the movements of shadows and stars played an important part in peoples' understanding of the spherical world, and they were intrigued to learn that observing the hull of a ship disappearing into the distance faster the upper part also played a key part in peoples' understanding. They then mapped Phileas Fogg's journey across the world and made their own miniature globes.

They also wrote neat copies of their versions of the Indian folk tale, The Tiger Child, for display and created colourful collages of the jungle to go alongside these.

Following this, English lessons took a plunge into everything Christmas, with the introduction

of the fantastically festive and funny book, 'Christmasaurus' by Tom Fletcher. Here, Year 3 became detectives and found out as much about the characters as they could based on their written descriptions. Did you know that, although very round, Santa is in fact incredibly nimble on his feet and can even walk on the tips of his toes like a ballet dancer? At the end of the week, they had a go at writing their own festive, Christmasaurus-inspired rhymes.



## Year 4

In between all the excitement for the imminent school production the children in 4MA continued their research into Habitats. They discovered habitats can change for many different reasons. Some of these changes are natural but sadly some changes are caused by humans. Humans have cut down large areas of the forest to clear space for building or farming. This has destroyed the habitats of many species and made it difficult for them to survive. Children discovered when a living thing is endangered it means that there are not many of that plant or animal left and scientists are concerned that the species may become extinct. Equipped with this knowledge children are now writing information texts about endangered species and how we can help save these beautiful creatures.

Meanwhile, in art children finished their colourful Indian elephants and are enjoying having a go at creating Mehndi patterns. Parents (don't worry) we are doing our designs on paper rather than real body parts!

## Year 5 & 6

With the cast working hard in rehearsals this week, we will update you with Year 5 and 6 activities in next week's newsletter



Today the week will finish with dress rehearsals with the exception of those taking part in the U9 rugby match against New College and the sports partnership regional cross-country finals. Good luck especially to Jago, Henry, Tom, Nicholas, Alice and Eliza.

While we're on running... Well done to Jago (Y4) who, as a member of Bicester Athletics Club, came second in the U9 Oxfordshire Cross Country League (OXL) at Cirencester on Sunday - An excellent result! As we go to press, the NOSSP U7, U9 and U11 Cross Country Finals are being held here at Sibford. Results will be in next week's newsletter.

Next week, aside from our plays, we have class parties, the carol concert, Awards Meeting and Christmas lunch - the latter bedecked in all things sparkly for the NSPCC Christmas Appeal.

In the meantime, have a wonderful weekend.

In friendship

**Edward Rossiter**  
**Head of Junior School**  
**Sibford School**

Ps. We thought we'd done well getting all of the Junior School doing Indian dancing, but did you know that the largest ever Indian dance involved 9,219 participants?

### **Sibford Christmas Carol Concert - Thursday, 13th December 2018 at 6.30pm in the Main Hall**

The Sibford School Carol Concert takes place next Thursday (13 December). The evening will begin at 6.30pm with mince pies and mulled fruit punch in the hall foyer and the concert will start at 7pm. There will be performances from Senior pupils, as well as some of our Junior School pupils. This is always a truly wonderful evening of music, poetry and carols and we hope that you and your families will be able to join us as we celebrate the start of the festive season.

### **"Get your Sparkle on" - Casuals Day - Friday, 14th December 2018**

Don't forget wear something sparkly on the 14th December and donate £1 or more to raise money and awareness for the NSPCC. Have you got a sparkly jumper? Top? Jeans? Earrings? Tinsel? Sequins? Eco-Glitter? - Get your sparkle on for the last day of school.

Every sparkle, every sequin and every penny you raise can do amazing things for children. £3 could help us reach one primary school child through our Speak Out. Stay Safe programme, which helps primary school children recognize and stay safe from abuse and neglect.

### **Sibford School Ski Trip (Years 4-13) - Friday, 5th April to Saturday, 13th April 2019**

A final reminder that if you would like your child to attend the above trip or require further information please email Lynne Singer as soon as possible [lsinger@sibfordschool.co.uk](mailto:lsinger@sibfordschool.co.uk) This will be an excellent opportunity to ski in Rodeneck in the Italian Alps.

## Dates for the Diary

Monday, 10 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 (Years 4-6) Christmas Production, Oliver Studio at 2.30pm
Tuesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 (including Year 3) Christmas Production, Dining Hall at 2.30pm KS2 (Years 4-6) Christmas Production, Oliver Studio at 6pm
Wednesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 (including Year 3) Christmas Production, Dining Hall at 2.30pm KS2 (Years 4-6) Christmas Production, Oliver Studio at 6pm
Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Christmas Carol Singing at 8.45am in EYFS  End of Term Awards Meeting, Dining Hall at 9.15pm (Refreshments will be available from 8.45am in the Small Dining Room) followed by open classrooms, where parents are welcome to come and look around at the work the children have been doing.  There will be no Year 3 and 4 Horse-Riding  Class Parties and a visit by Father Christmas from 2.30pm  Sibford School Christmas Carol Concert, Main Hall at 6.30pm
Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> December	“Get your sparkle on” Casual Day in aid of NSPCC Christmas Appeal (minimum donation of £1)  School Christmas Lunch  Final Meeting, Main Hall at 3.40pm  School closes at 4.15pm.
Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Spring Term begins