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Friday 14th December 2018

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*Dear Reform Club,*

*By George, we cut it fine, but we made it! Our adventure drew to a successful close with our safe arrival into the bosom of the Reform Club; a sight for sore eyes I can tell you! However, our trepidatious journey was very nearly in vain, beset with frequent incidents. At the outset I claimed there was no such thing as the unexpected: I can safely attest that I withdraw that opinion!*

*Upon our safe arrival in New York, we boarded the steam ship Henrietta and "persuaded" its captain, an Andrew Speedy, to take us to Liverpool. While making good time, we found ourselves running out of fuel and had to resort to burning the good ship itself. Speedy was none too happy, until I offer to buy his boat for an extortionate amount.*

*We limped into the dock and were well set to catch the train to London when the shady character of Mr Ball, revealing himself as Detective Fix, arrested me on suspicion of robbery. The very thought of it, me an Englishman! A night spent in the cells waiting for the truth to emerge, meant that Passepartout and I, with the dear Aouda in tow, travelled down to London in sombre mood.*

*I had lost my wager, lost my fortune and my future, once so clear, looked distinctly murky. And yet my spirits were high; I hade made firm friends upon my journey, a gift worth more than money.*

*But I had thought too soon - in crossing the international date line we had gained a day on our circumnavigation and thus, with a final sprint, returned to the Club in the nick of time.*

*A truly incredible journey, but one I would happily not undertake again any time soon!*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Phileas Fogg*

Dear Parents,

The festive knitwear and sparkles indicate that today marks the end of an eventful term, and with it the summation of our Creative Curriculum topic. The last week has continued the recent trend of cramming as much in as possible (I know the teachers are looking forward to some "normal" weeks when we return after Christmas!) and you will perhaps forgive both them and me, if this newsletter is not quite so fulsome as usual!

Dominating the week have been the two Junior School productions: Children of the World and Around the World in 80 Days. Both shows were extremely successful with fantastic performances from all involved. Reception to Year 3 entertained us with a journey around the Christmas traditions of different countries with some excellent singing, dancing and delivery of lines (we are already taking notes for parts for future plays!) We even had a charming nativity

scene, although I don't recall disagreements about where to place the candy canes being in the gospels!

Year 4 to 6 undertook our most ambitious (and longest!) production to date. With a cast of 63 we had both the scope and the challenge to "go big" and the result, I hope, reflected that. The performances improved with each show and I was extremely proud of their achievements. Thank you to all of you parents for coming to watch the shows and being such responsive audiences and also for support in helping with costumes and learning lines (I'm sure you probably know the songs as well as the children by now!)

On Tuesday we welcomed Sammy from the Let's Play charity which has been supported by some of the children doing the Discovery Award.

*Last Saturday a group of us organised a Bring and Buy Sale. We also had refreshments, and sold home made cakes - we had loads of Brownies! We organised this at Charlton Village Hall as part of our Discovery Award project. In the group there was me, Tom, Rosie, Harry and Henry. Instead of throwing away old toys and books, we decided to sell them. Everything was quite cheap and people were happy with their bargains. Everyone who came, bought lots of things. It is much better to buy a book that someone has only read once for less than a pound rather than spending £7.99.*

*We raised £230 for a charity called 'Let's Play'. This charity helps children with disabilities, for example if they are in a wheel chair. It gives them opportunities to do the things that we are lucky enough to do every day. A lady called Sammy came to talk to us on Tuesday. I already knew her because of my friend Silas, and so did Harry because his sister helps out with the children who go there. We presented her with an envelope with our donation of £230, which will help the charity to buy new equipment. It made me feel very thankful that I can do what I do everyday. Having a disability is not like having a cold. It is something to live with all your life.*

*By Finnley, Year 6*



On Thursday it was the term of our Nursery children who performed a short, but beautiful, series of Christmas songs. They'll be itching to be involved in the "big play" next year, I'm sure. From there we went into our End of Term Awards Meeting. Congratulations to the following children:

Howes Science Cup Rory, Y6

Koochitt Excellence in Literacy Bertie, Y3

Ali Sayer Art Cup Harriet, Y4

Friday Organisational Skills Cup Ella-Mae, Y2

PSFA Spirit of Sibford Bardia, Y6

Head Teacher's Cup for Academic Achievement Max, Y6

Woolley Maths Award Henry, Y6

Sportsman of the Term Nicholas, Y6

Sportswoman of the Term Sophie, Y5

End of Term Certificates went to; Noah - EYFS, Florence - Y1, Evie - Y3, Kaiya - Y4, Lucy - Y4, Kezia - Y5, Ellis and Rosie - Y6.

It was also an opportunity for us to say a very fond farewell to Jayne Woolley who is retiring at the end of term. Jayne has been at Sibford for 18 years as both a Junior School class teacher and as a maths support specialist, but has been teaching for 39 years (118 terms no less!) She will be sorely missed and we wish her well - she's looking forward to a Christmas holiday not having to plan lessons or make displays in readiness for January!

Thursday afternoon was time for our class parties and a visit from a man in red. Having been in the classroom during his arrival I was able to explode the story going round some of the younger children that I was Santa!

As if two nights in school wasn't enough, members of the choir and the some of the Year 4 girls also performed at the wonderful Carol Concert in the evening.

And so we come to Friday - and I'm just about to dash outside to coordinate everyone for our Christmas dinner! This morning, as well as wearing as many sparkles as possible to raise money for the NSPCC, we've also had a special Meeting to say goodbye to Helen Hoy. Helen has been a brilliant Head of Early Years and will be missed by staff, parents and children alike. We wish her all the best for the future.

I hope you and your families all have warm, happy and contented Christmases and I look forward to seeing you in 2019 with all the excitement it has to offer.

In friendship

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

Ps. Did you know that Rudolph's red nose is probably the result of a parasitic infection of his respiratory system and in Germany, Poland, and Ukraine, finding a spider or a spider's web on a Christmas tree is believed to be a harbinger of good luck?

**Singing for Syrians Collection from the KS2 Christmas Production**

Following our production of "Around the World in Eighty Days" we had a collection for Singing for Syrians. This campaign by the Hands Up Foundation encourages people across the UK and

beyond to hold or attend music events to raise funds for some of Syria's most vulnerable. They fund projects in and around Syria which provide vital health and education services for thousands of Syrians living in areas where there is incredibly limited access to such facilities. This year I am pleased to say we raised £276. Many thanks for your support and generosity.

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

Today we held a Christmas casuals day in aid of the NSPCC, themed 'Get your Sparkle on'. At the time of writing we have raised £376.24, thank you everyone for your contributions to this worthy cause. If you would like to make further donations please use the website.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk>



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The NSPCC is the UK's leading children's  
charity, preventing abuse and helping those

## Sports Report

Well done to Alice, Eliza, Jago, Henry, Nicholas and Tom who took part in the NOSSP U7, U9 and U11 Cross Country Finals held at Sibford last Friday. All runners performed exceptionally well in a very competitive field. Particular mention goes to Jago, Alice and Eliza who all finished in the top 10 and to Tom who came first in the U11 Boys and will go through to the next round in April to defend his title from last year's event.



## 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.

Year 3 and 4 Horse Riding - Spring Term 2019

## **Year 3 and 4 Horse Riding - Spring Term 2019**

Just a reminder that if you would like your child to attend Horse-Riding as part of their PE Lesson on Thursdays, please email Lynne Singer [lsinger@sibfordschool.co.uk](mailto:lsinger@sibfordschool.co.uk).

## **Lunch Clubs and After School Clubs - Spring Term 2019**

You should have by now received the booking forms for Lunch Time and After School Clubs. These clubs re commence w/c 14th January 2019. Prep and After School Care and Tea will be available from the 1st week of the Spring Term. Please return these forms to Lynne Singer, with requests for ASC/Prep and Tea for the 1st week back if required as soon as possible.

## **Lost Property**

Orlando, Y5 and Emily, Y4 have both lost their tracksuit bottoms, both named. Joseph, Y4 has lost his PE shorts also named. Please could everyone check their bags over the Christmas holidays in case they have been picked up in error.

## **Dates for the Diary**

Monday, 7th January Spring Term begins