

# ASHRIDGE NEWS

From your Committee - November 2012

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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Early December - Santa's Sleigh  
Saturday 1st December - Keephatch Xmas Fayre  
Monday 3rd December - Task Force  
Thursday 6th December - Christmas Cheer

7th-9th December - Festival of Christmas Trees  
Thursday 20th December - Christmas Singing  
Friday 21st Dec - End of term and Xmas Party  
Wednesday 8th January 2013 - Start of new term

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## CHAIR CHAT

It's been a busy time at Ashridge Nursery (as I think it is for everyone!) but great fun too.

Earlier in the term, the children brought in donations for the Harvest Festival that were donated to the Bracknell Foodbank. Then last Friday they dressed up for Children in Need - there were some fine costumes and we raised £63.

We also had the photographer come to visit and he took some lovely pictures of the children (now available to view/buy).

Their next activity will be creating tree decorations for The Festival of Christmas Trees which will be held at the Rose St Methodist Church 7-9<sup>th</sup> Dec - do visit the church to look, it's a lovely community event. There will then be Christmas Singing on the last Thursday of term at the nursery - it's a really special time when Mums and Dads can come along and watch. Then on the last day of term there is a Christmas party for the children.

None of this would be possible without the commitment of Mrs Lipski and her team. I would like to thank them for all their hard work and passion for our Nursery and trust that with all these activities in December, they don't forget to enjoy it too. (Not long to go until that well earned break!)

As a committee, we recruited 3 new committee members (more are always welcome) and already had two more successful Task Force nights - many thanks for all the volunteers who continue to support this. The next one is on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

As well as managing the day-to-day, a sub-group of the committee has been discussing whether to move to being an 'Incorporated charity' which would give the charity and us more protection. More will follow on this next term.

From a fund raising perspective the Twilight Market was held and again was a most enjoyable evening. The plant sale also took place. We are hoping to again do the Christmas Santa's float this year. We go round a few local streets with 'Santa' on his float and take donations in conjunction with the Wokingham Round Table. It's great fun, but we will need volunteers for this if it goes ahead - look out for more news on this.

I would like to personally thank the committee for helping me out - I have had a particularly busy schedule (including hurricanes in New York!) and I have appreciated how everyone has got stuck in to help me out. In particular, thanks to Janet and Andrea for your organisation and patience, Carole for doing all the money and Michele for help with this Chair Chat!

Finally, on behalf of Ashridge Nursery, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas - have a great time and see you in the New Year.

Dale Green (Chair)

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PHOTOS - Here are some examples of the work the children have been doing.....

Bubble Painting



Autumn Leaves



The Autumn Wall which the children have all helped with



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## FUNDRAISING UPDATE - WELL DONE EVERYONE!

### PLANT SALE

A big thank you to Sue Howard for her help with this event. We are delighted to announce that the Autumn Plant Sale raised almost £100 for Ashridge Nursery this year. Thank you so much to those who supported this fundraising opportunity and please look out for the Spring Plant sale next April/May!



### TWILIGHT MARKET

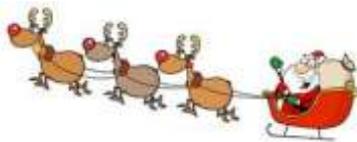


The Twilight Market was a huge success thanks to everyone involved in the event! We raised an amazing £457! The nursery was bustling with shoppers enjoying the atmosphere and starting their Christmas shopping. A delicious smell of mulled wine greeted everyone as they entered the building. Stalls included Venture photography, Phoenix cards, Pampered Chef, Chocoholics, Simply Sarah & Sara cakes & jams, Creative crafts, Box Lady, Usborne books, Pure Imagination Puppets, Stained glass decorations, Avon, Stella and Dot jewellery and Small print.

### SANTA'S SLEIGH

Early December - Date to be confirmed

Volunteer to join Father Christmas and his sleigh to collect money for the nursery. It is organised by The Round Table, with date and route yet to be confirmed. Details will be on blackboard when we receive them.



### KEEP HATCH SCHOOL XMAS FAYRE

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December - 2.00pm to 4.30pm

Why not take the children to see Santa in his grotto, play some festive games and maybe even win yourself some prizes on the tombola whilst your there? This is also a great chance for anyone thinking of sending their child there to have a look round and get a 'feel' for the place. Admission is £1 per adult and children go free.



### TASK FORCE

Monday 3rd December



Please come and join us to help the staff get through those little extra tasks that need doing. Scissors start snipping from 7.30pm. Many hands

make light work! Please contact Minna (Olivia's mum) if you can help: [minna.harman@btinternet.com](mailto:minna.harman@btinternet.com)

### CHRISTMAS CHEER

Thursday 1st December



Our teaching staff will be holding their annual Christmas Cheer evening, complete with wine and cheese in the nursery. Please join them for a festive gathering and a chance to chat with others about your Christmas plans.



## FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES

Friday 7th - Sunday 9th December

Ashridge Nursery will once again be taking part in the annual Festival of Christmas Trees, which will be held at the Rose Street Methodist Church. A number of local schools and organisations, including our own, decorate a tree and you can see them all in their splendour - and, of course, hunt for your little one's beautiful hand-made decoration on the nursery's tree! See [www.wokinghammethodist.org.uk](http://www.wokinghammethodist.org.uk) for more details.



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## THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Thank you to all of you who submitted ideas for activities and days out. Do keep them coming!

- Prospect Park in Reading is a great open space to enjoy with a fantastic playground area. They also run a mini steam train through the summer months and have two Santa Specials - [www.rsme.co.uk](http://www.rsme.co.uk)
- Pinewood trains - The regular monthly trains days have finished for the year, but they are also holding two Santa Specials - [www.pinewoodrailway.co.uk](http://www.pinewoodrailway.co.uk) for further info.
- Henry Street Garden Centre in Arborfield will have some real reindeer from 24<sup>th</sup> November and Father Christmas himself will also be putting in an appearance! See [www.henrystreet.co.uk](http://www.henrystreet.co.uk) for dates and times.
- If your thinking of taking the kids to see a pantomime then its worth checking out Berkshire's Big Panto Guide which can be found here: <http://www.bigpantoguide.co.uk/berkshire.php>

If you have any other gems you'd like to share with others, please email me (Andrea - Keira & Chloe's mum): [andi\\_thomasuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andi_thomasuk@yahoo.co.uk) and I will publish them in the next newsletter.

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## OTHER WAYS TO FUNDRAISE

If you get the **Wokingham Times**, please don't forget to cut out the coupon on page 25 and bring it in to the nursery. Fingers crossed we'll win that £200!



If you shop at Morrisons, we would be extremely grateful if you could collect the "Let's grow vouchers" that they are currently offering, and hand these in at the nursery which will be put to great use to obtain gardening resources and equipment.



If you shop online, please register with the Giving Machine:

[www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk) and nominate Ashridge Nursery as your chosen beneficiary. Then, if you go through the site every time you shop, Ashridge Nursery will receive a percentage from the company you've shopped with - and it won't cost you a penny! Everyone's a winner, as they say!

We can now accept direct donations through **Virgin Money Giving**. Please follow the link on our website: [www.ashridgenursery.co.uk](http://www.ashridgenursery.co.uk)



Finally, if you are a UK Taxpayer and wish to give directly to the nursery, please complete your Gift Aid form. If you have mislaid it, please contact Sam Gunter: [ashridgenursery@btinternet.com](mailto:ashridgenursery@btinternet.com) for a replacement.

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