



### Happy New Year to everyone!

At this time of year we like to ask children at school to make a wish for the world and we hang these on our wishing tree outside the Keilhau building. We share the wishes at a beautiful Gathering on the first Friday in January. Children always come up with some really thoughtful and beautiful wishes and you are welcome to take a wish leaf and add yours to them.

This term we are also welcoming some new children to our community: Loretta and Nancy in Elder Class, Lucas and Bella

in Willow Class, Joshua in Sycamores and Arthur, Margot and Edward in Kindergarten. We would also like to welcome to our team, Sarah Montgomery to Kindergarten as a Teaching Assistant and Josie Anderson as our new SENCO. We welcome them all to our community and hope they are very happy at Annan.

### Class Outings

Our Inspire stage of this term's IMAGINE topic has got off to a quick start. Sycamore and Oak Tree classes went to see Dick Whittington in Eastbourne (oh yes they did!) and Elders and Willows have been to Wimbledon Children's theatre to see a puppet production of the Snow Queen. We are spending time this term imagining different worlds. We are hoping to put a show on at the end of term so some experience of a theatre production will be a great inspiration.

### New Climbing Frame

Tim has now built the new geodesic dome climbing frame outside the new STEAM room. This has been paid for by the Friends. Once the new bark chip surface is down the children will be able to use it at playtimes. This should be ready by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January.



### Why a Geodesic Dome?

Well obviously, the dome is a great thing to climb on! However, did you know that geodesic domes were invented by Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983). Fuller (known as Bucky) attended one of the first Froebelian kindergartens established in Massachusetts where he was introduced to stick and pea work (a popular Froebelian occupation). He said in his autobiography...

*"One of my first days at kindergarten the teacher brought us some toothpicks and semi-dried peas, and told us to make structures. With my bad sight, I was used to seeing only bulks. I had no feeling at all about structural lines. The other children, who had good eyes, were familiar with houses and barns. Because I couldn't see, I naturally had recourse to my other senses. When the teacher told us to make structures I tried to make something that would work. Pushing and then pulling, I found that the triangle held its shape when nothing else did. The other children made rectangular structures that seemed to stand up because the peas held them in shape. The teacher called all the other teachers in primary school to take a look at this triangular structure. I remember being surprised that they were surprised."*

*Buckminster Fuller went on to design many Geodesic Domes around the World including the United States Trade Fair Pavilion in Tokyo in 1957.*



Stick and pea work brings together the sequence of solid, plane, line, point which Froebel advocated. How appropriate then that we have a dome outside our new STEAM room.

## School Car Park

Please can we remind everyone that the car park is designed to be “drop and go”. This means that unless you have a need to talk to the teacher before school, older children can walk up from the car park on their own. Younger children (Sycamores/Oak Trees) can be taken to their teacher and left in the playground. As much as it is lovely to stop and chat in the playground, it does mean that later arrivals cannot park. Please leave the car park as soon as you get back to your car rather than talking to other parents in the car park as it does cause blockages. We must also insist that the area on the outside of the car park is only used as a “one minute stop” i.e. kids jump out on their own and walk up the drive. If we can all work together on this it will cause a lot less stress particularly in the mornings.

## Minibus/Car sharing

The Lewes pick-ups are really popular at the moment and the bus is full on some runs. There are spaces particularly on Fridays so do ask if you want to use it.

**We do also ask that wherever possible parents who are not on the minibus route try to car share with other parents. If you don't have an address list please ask Paula for one so that you can make arrangements. Every car share cuts down one parking space and helps with the environment.**

## Friends Committee

Please can we once again say a massive thank you to everyone who helped out and who visited the Winter Festival at the end of last term, thanks to your efforts we raised a massive £2,336.14 – which will go a long way in kitting out the school hall ready for school performances – which we hope to have achieved in time for this year's production! Last term we also raised £171 from the pyjama party, so all in all a great term.

We'll be hosting a few more events and activities between now and the end of the Summer term, some with a fundraising focus and some purely for fun to help build our community for both parents and children. We are always looking for people to get involved so please do let us know if you'd like to join us.

You can drop me a line at [helen@kudocommunications.co.uk](mailto:helen@kudocommunications.co.uk) or come up and say hello in the playground.

## Week 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> January

### Monday

Lunch: Winter Vegetable Soup  
Staff Meeting

### Tuesday

Lunch: Pizza

### Wednesday

### Thursday

Kinderplay 1.30-3.00pm  
After School Clubs 3.30-4.30pm

### Friday



## Children's bike helmets

Kindergarten are looking for more children's bike helmets for Wheels on Wednesdays. If you have any which your child has grown out of please bring them to the office or give them to Heather. Many thanks.

## Future dates:

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Kindergarten puppet show  
by Elfin Grove Theatre Co

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Afterschool Clubs start

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 3.15pm

Friends Committee

12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> February

Spring Half Term

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Chinese New Year Banquet

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

World Book Day

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Parents evenings

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March

Show (prov)

Last Day of Spring Term

Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Inset Day