



Dear Families and Friends

As we finish today for the Christmas holiday, I would like to start this newsletter by acknowledging the super Christmas performances given by all of our children during the last two weeks. From the stars in *Shine Star, Shine* to the sheep in *Hey Ewe*, we are very proud of all of our younger children, some of whom had main parts to play or appeared in front of an audience for the very first time. I would also like to congratulate all of our Key Stage 2 children, including all those who performed lovely solos, for two very fine performances of Christmas readings, carols and songs. We hope you enjoyed our programme of familiar, unfamiliar and fun Christmas melodies and we thank you for being such a supportive (and vocally in-tune!) audience. And finally, I turn to Wednesday evening's concert at the Monastery in Manchester for which I am almost lost for words. It was a magical evening and I know that those who attended enjoyed not only the wonderful contribution of our children but the whole programme. We were very proud of all of the children and the way in which they represented our school. Well done everyone and thank you so much for supporting your children, the school and the Christie Charitable Trust and the work they do. Ticket sales and donations from our school totalled over £1,500.

It may interest you to know that the concert was recorded by the BBC and will be broadcast (possibly edited) on BBC Radio Manchester at 6pm on Christmas Eve and again at 2pm on Christmas day.



I would like to thank staff, volunteers and children for their hard work during this long term and wish everyone a lovely Christmas and a very happy new year.



Ian Beard
Headteacher

KEY DATES for your DIARY

Monday 6th January 2014

Wednesday 8th January

Friday 7th February

School opens for the Spring Term 2014

Years 3 – 6 visit to the Lowry to see 'Wanted! Robin Hood'

Friends Event : Quiz Night

SCHOOL MEALS

If your child has a school meal at lunchtimes, they may have told you that we are now operating an ordering system with the aim of ensuring that children always get the choice they want, even if they are on the 'last sitting' for lunch. Throughout the week, children in Years 1 – 6 order a day or two in advance from the 'cook's choice' (or vegetarian), pasta or sandwiches/baked potatoes. Children in Early Years always have the cook's choice. The cook now knows exactly how many sandwiches of each filling the kitchen needs to prepare for each group and how much of the cook's choice needs to be made so that we do not run out. We have been operating the system now for 3 weeks and it has been successful in that every child, with just a few exceptions, has received what they have ordered. It also means that we have less wasted food in the kitchen.

The children do not have to remember what they have ordered as it is all recorded and they are reminded of their choice as they come into lunch each day. Because we are now preparing food to order, we need to ensure that the parents of any child who has an 'occasional' school meal, perhaps if they have forgotten their packed lunch, make it known to the school office and pay for a meal at the beginning of the day. If this is not done, we cannot guarantee that a meal will be available.



We have been encouraging all of our children to eat their full meal at lunchtimes. There are a lot of children who clearly have an 'aversion' to vegetables and do not eat some of their lunch every day so we are encouraging them to eat a little more before they rush off to play outside. After Christmas, we will also be issuing some advice regarding packed lunches and their contents. At the moment, we are noticing a lot of children are bringing unhealthy items as part of their lunch.

LEAGUE TABLES

It is not often that we mention the league tables published by the government and the press but on this occasion we would like everyone to know that this school was placed amongst the *top three* schools in Manchester for achieving the Government's new benchmark of children attaining Level 4B or above (known as 'secondary ready') in all three subjects of reading, writing and mathematics. Our combined score was 96% compared to the national average of 63%. We were also placed in the top five schools for pupil progress. Whilst the children involved in this have now moved on, we would like to extend our congratulations to them for their achievement. Well done!

ATTENDANCE

We would again like to acknowledge the fine efforts of parents and (good health of) children in ensuring that children have very good attendance at school. Our overall attendance (from September) is currently 97.5% with two classes exceeding 98% which is excellent. It may interest you to know that, according to the recently published league tables, that this school has the 5th highest attendance in Manchester and at 96.9% was only 0.2% behind the school ranked in first place. We are on track to do even better this year. Everyone should be very proud of this commitment to school life. Well done everyone.



2014 – 2015 TERM DATES

We will publish our term and holiday dates for 2014-2015 in January. In the meantime, for those planning holidays for late 2014, we can tell you that the children will return to school after the summer holidays on Tuesday 2nd September and that our half-term holiday will be during the week beginning Monday 27th October 2014.