



LITTLEGARTH

A truly independent school & nursery

15th December 2017

Dear Parents

NEWSLETTER 2017/18 – 5

Christmas seems to have come early for the staff and children. The new building was finally handed over on the 8th December and I was able to show all the children round. It was the first time the building company had been in a building when children had been shown round. The Year 6 children spontaneously broke into a round of applause; the building company representatives had a lump in their throat as a consequence!

I am delighted that I have now been able to show lots of parents around and the feedback has been fantastic. Staff will be moving to the new rooms over Christmas so the children will be able to make full use of the new facilities in January.

Apart from this excitement, we have had lots of Christmas preparations including visits to pantomimes, parties and our wonderful Carol Service to name but a few.

FLS Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar was a resounding success once again. Father Christmas proved a big hit with a long line of children waiting patiently to see him. He told me later that he was very impressed by our children so I hope he was able to remember what they asked him for!

The variety of games, and stalls on offer this year was exceptional and with lots to keep the children entertained and left parents free to enjoy the stands on offer.

Many thanks to Sam Parsons, the FLS team and staff for their hard work and support and to all staff, parents and helpers who manned stalls, made cakes and gave donations.

Christmas Productions

Our Christmas productions this year were magical. Nursery performed *The Adventures of Stickman*. The children sang their hearts out and remembered their lines so well; it was a fantastic adaptation and I would recommend any Nursery parents reading the book to their children.

Reception took the stage next and their performance of *The Wriggly Nativity* slightly lived up to its name! Again, the performance was outstanding. The central theme of the story was the birth of Jesus but the assembled menagerie were so excited they just could not sit still!

Having been stopped on the stairs during rehearsals by a Year 2 child with hands on hips, addressing me in a stern manner, I was not surprised to learn that the name of the Year 1 and 2 production was The Bossy Christmas Fairy. The Fairy thought she was most important but, as the story unfolds she quickly learns that the birth of Jesus is far more important. A wonderful Christmas message.

Pantomimes

Prep children and staff travelled to The Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds to watch Dick Whittington. It was a lively performance and the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, especially the silly jokes and being squirted with water.

The Pre-Prep travelled to the Mercury in Colchester for their Panto, watching Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. This was an excellent show and the children sang, danced and encouraged the actors to help Snow White meet her handsome prince. Everyone had a great time and Mr Jones was relieved that this year the pantomime dame found a different victim to fall in love with!

Carol Singing

The Senior Choir had a busy time. Firstly singing for the visitors to Jimmy's Farm. It was a cold, drizzly day but the singing cheered lots of people up and added to the Christmas spirit.

Earlier this week they visited three Care Homes to sing traditional carols. A thank you note summed up the feelings of the residents by saying, "The Residents and Staff all enjoyed the event so much. We had the St Peter's Church Choir a few days before and everyone said that the Littlegarth Children were even better than them. What a commendation!

Thank you for helping bring back some memories to our people living with dementia".

Christmas Concert

The list of ensembles and groups performing at this annual event has grown steadily and the performances given this year were outstanding. The brass ensemble played two tunes and the whole orchestra performing Land of Hope and Glory and Frosty the Snowman (last night at the proms watch out)! The African Drumming group performed The Cup song and our newest ensembles, flute and percussion played a piece each as well. The guitar ensemble performed with an impromptu chorus from Reception. The choirs were just exceptional.

What a wonderful hour enjoyed by all the children and over 200 parents, friends and family.

Parties

The parties started in the Nursery on Tuesday 12th December and they had a jam packed morning. The children played Pass the Parcel, made Reindeer biscuits, party hats and Christmas place mats. They were very excited when Father Christmas made a visit and delivered gifts to all. The Pre-Prep party took place in the afternoon and the children loved the wide variety of games that were organised by the members of FLS. Father Christmas appeared again with presents for the whole school. This really made for a very exciting day.

Our Prep children enjoyed a fun filled afternoon at their Christmas Party on Wednesday. Children took part in a Christmas Quiz, a giant dodge ball competition and made Christmas crowns and reindeer tree decorations. The afternoon finished with a Christmas Dance Off where all the children showed off their groovy moves.

Christmas Lunch

Our kitchen staff produced an outstanding Christmas lunch for the children and staff. Crackers were pulled, hats were worn and general organised frivolity followed! It was a noisy but joyful lunch time with delicious traditional Christmas fayre.

Carol Service

Our Head Girl and Head Boy welcomed us to this year's Carol Service at James' Church, Nayland and set the scene for the next hour as our Year 6 children narrated the story of Christmas. The Senior Choir, Chamber Choir, Whole School and Year 6's nearly lifted the roof as the descants filled the church with beautiful sounds. The whole evening had a magical Christmas feel and is a wonderful way to start the festivities.

Merit Results

An extremely close inter-house Merit competition result was eagerly awaited by all as we held our first assembly in the Drama Studio this afternoon. The children and staff of Gainsborough were delighted to learn that they had come first over the course of the term with Constable second and Munnings third. These results have now been 'filed' ready for the end of year result and all scores return to zero in preparation for a new competition in the Spring Term.

Congratulations to all those in Gainsborough and we anticipate a close competition next term.

Saturday Soccer and Half Term Courses

Mr Fidler would like to remind you that there are still places on the Football Course which take place from Monday 12th – Wednesday 14th February for children in Years 2 to 6.

Saturday Soccer starts in January for the Spring Term for all children in Years 2 to 6.

Termly Calendar

The draft termly calendar is attached to this newsletter with the final copy being sent home with your children on the first day of term. I would suggest going through the calendar and making a note in your own diaries of anything that applies to your child. If you are unsure, the School Office would be happy to help. Please note there is a change to the half term date for Autumn 2018.

Finally I would like to thank all the children, parents, staff and governors for your enthusiastic support this term. This is a very exciting time for Littlegarth and this term has been extremely busy and very successful.

I hope that you are able to enjoy some rest over Christmas and I look forward to welcoming you back to School in 2018.

Yours sincerely



Peter H Jones