

# WHALEY BRIDGE E.R. PRIMARY SCHOOL

For every child, a chance to shine

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## Headteacher

Mrs F Walton B.Ed. (Hons)

15 December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

It's nearly the Christmas holidays and a well-earned rest for all the children and staff who have worked so hard this term. I'm sure you'll agree, it's been action-packed and we hope that all the children have enjoyed any activities in which they have been involved.

### **AROUND SCHOOL**

#### **Choir/Little Voices**

This time of year is always busy for our choirs and this year was no exception! Yet again, we entered the Christmas Carol competition run by High Peak Radio. Our entry was recorded in school, and will be played on the radio throughout December. The choir that gets the most votes (pro-rata to the number of children in the school) will win an outside broadcast from the school. So get voting – you have until 31 December to vote either by e-mail at [news@highpeakradio.co.uk](mailto:news@highpeakradio.co.uk) or by telephone on 01298 813144.

#### **Christmas Carol Service**

Our choirs also played a major role at the Christmas Carol service held today at Trinity Church – a great way to end the school year! We heard from some of our talented musicians playing string and brass instruments, some fantastic soloists and our readers spoke clearly for all to hear. We hope that those of you who managed to attend enjoyed the celebration of talent we have at the school and that it put you all in a festive mood!

#### **Class 5 Assembly**

Miss Lomas's class gave us a marvellous assembly on the theme of space! We were treated to music, dancing and acting by astronauts, scientists and aliens and saw the fantastic solar systems made by the children. Well done, Year 5, for a most informative and 'out of this world' assembly!



### **Violin Assembly**

Mrs Green's assembly on Tuesday included a performance by our violinists who have lessons with Ms Porter, and the whole school got involved by singing along to some of the tunes! They played beautifully and showed us how much progress can be made with lots of practice – well done!



### **Poppy Appeal - update**

Thank you to everyone who bought snap bands, poppies, reflectors etc in aid of the Royal British Legion annual Poppy Appeal. Through your kind efforts, the school raised £202.80 – thank you all.

### **Reception/Y1 Production – Whoops-a-daisy Angel**

Reception and Year 1 gave us a fantastic performance over two days, delighting parents, carers and grandparents and the school with their brilliant singing and dancing skills. They worked extremely hard and thanks goes to them all, and especially to the staff team for bringing together such a marvellous production.

### **Key Strings**

December brought us our annual visit by Key Strings, and what a morning we all had! The whole school was involved and as the pictures below show, a great time was had by all getting to know about different instruments and the wonderful sounds they can make.



### **ER Pantomime**

Our children based in the ER had the opportunity to go to Glossop to watch a performance of The Snowman and a great time was had by all! All the children behaved themselves beautifully, and everyone enjoyed a magical morning.

### **Aladdin**

The whole school were treated to a fantastic, traditional production of the pantomime Aladdin in our school hall – there was lots of cheering, clapping, singing, booing, hissing and all the expected hullabaloo of a pantomime, including scrummy ice cream in the interval. A great time was had by all, and it got everyone in a festive mood!

### **Christmas Dinner/Christmas Jumper Day**

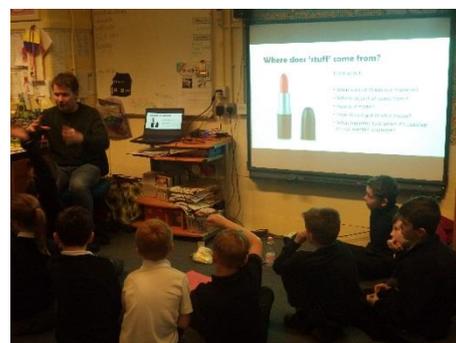
Yet again, Mrs Cooper and her team in the kitchen cooked up a tasty Christmas lunch – thank you to them all – and the array of Christmas jumpers worn by children and staff alike brought sparkle and Christmas cheer to the whole school – a wonderful day!

### **Recycling projects**

Year 4 had a visit from Mrs Skeldon, Max's mum and Mr Smith, Zack's dad who had organised an afternoon



session on the 3Rs – *Reduce, Re-use, Recycle*. The children undertook activities in groups such as sorting different materials according to how quickly they decompose and also finding out 'Where stuff comes from?'. Thank you to all involved – the children had an enjoyable, thought-provoking afternoon.



## **HOUSEKEEPING/NOTICES**

### **Attendance**

One of our key priorities is to improve attendance and punctuality for all children. Our whole school target is 97% and so far our overall attendance is at **97.1%** - Woo hoo!

We continue to try and ensure that all children arrive to school on time, every day. If you are finding it tricky to get your children into school on time at 8:55am, please do come to us for help and guidance, we have lots of ideas and strategies to help make mornings a bit easier!



### **Notifying us of Absence**

The easiest and most convenient way to let us know of an absence is via the texting service as this can be done any time of day or night. Alternatively, you can always ring school (01663 732354) and leave a message on the answerphone or email us on [info@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk). May we ask that, even if you have let your child's teacher know if your child is not in school or is being collected at a particular time for an appointment,

### **Site safety & security**

In case you are not aware, the large wooden gate into the playground by the side entrance will now be locked at 3.40 pm. Anyone collecting children from an after school activity (PAS, choir etc) should wait near the black side door and children will be brought to them through that entrance. Thank you.

## After School/Holiday Club

**Holiday Club** will be available from Monday 18 December to Friday 22 December, and Tuesday 2 January 2018. Please contact Suzanna King on 07894 235778 or via email at [asc@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:asc@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk), or via the After School Club (ASC) page on the school website or on Facebook.



Also, if anyone is having a **clear out of good quality toys** prior to the arrival of Santa, After School Club (ASC) would welcome donations as we are always looking to refresh the great pile of toys and activities we have. ASC also has a Christmas wish list which includes **Scalextric, Lego, Wooden Train Track and Balance Bikes**, so if you have any of these, or other items on your pile for the charity shop then please do let Suzanna know (on 07894 235778 or email [asc@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:asc@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk)). We would be very grateful!

**Deputy Manager position** – The ASC are looking for a Deputy Manager – please see the school website for more information on the position and an application form.

### Contact details

Thank you to those of you who completed Student Update Forms at Parents' Evenings. It is essential that we have up-to-date details for your child in case of emergencies, club cancellations, bad weather arrangements etc, so as a reminder, should your mobile telephone number, email or home address ever change, please make sure you let the office know at the earliest opportunity so we can update your child's record. Thank you.

### Applying for Reception Class - 2018

If your child was born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013, they will be eligible to start school in September 2018. You should apply for their infant or primary school place by **15 January 2018**. You will be able to make your application from **9.00 am on 13 November 2017** at:

[https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school\\_places/default.asp](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school_places/default.asp)

### Is your child eligible for Free School Meals (FSM)?

Registering for free meals can raise an extra £1,300 for our school, to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff and after-school activities.

1. Is your joint family income under £16,190 per year?
2. If not, are you in receipt of any of the benefits listed below:
  - Income support?
  - Income-based Jobseekers Allowance?
  - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance?
  - Support from NASS (National Asylum Support Service) under part 6 of the Immigration/Asylum Act?
  - The guarantee element of State Pension Credit?
  - Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than **£16,190**?
  - Working Tax Credit run-on?
  - Universal Credit?

**If you answered 'yes' to either of the above, then please come to us immediately.** If you are eligible, rest assured that the information is confidential. We are very discrete – even your child will not know that you have registered – let alone anyone else. Help us to help your child – contact us if you believe you qualify.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY –January/February/March 2018**

<b>JANUARY 2018</b>		
<b>2.1.18</b>	Tuesday	Inset Day
<b>3.1.18</b>	Wednesday	School reopens – 8.55 am
<b>12.1.18</b>	Friday	Class 2B Assembly
<b>19.1.18</b>	Friday	Class 3L Assembly
<b>26.1.18</b>	Friday	Class 6M Assembly
<b>26.1.18</b>	Friday	2.45 pm – Year 4 Drums Showcase – parents welcome!
<b>30.1.18</b>	Tuesday	Possible Y5L visit to Manchester Mosque
<b>FEBRUARY 2018</b>		
<b>2.2.18</b>	Friday	Class 1T Assembly
<b>9.2.18</b>	Friday	Class 6G Assembly
<b>16.2.18</b>	Friday	Safer Internet Assembly
<b>16.2.18</b>	Friday	Break up for Half-Term – 3.30 pm
<b>26.2.28</b>	Monday	School re-opens – 8.55 am
<b>MARCH 2018</b>		
<b>2.3.18</b>	Friday	World Book Day
<b>9.3.18</b>	Friday	Class 5L Assembly
<b>16.3.18</b>	Friday	Class 4F Assembly
<b>19.3.18</b>	Monday	Y6 Fire Safety talks
<b>21.3.18</b>	Wednesday	Y2 Fire Safety talk

Thank you for your continued support and may I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas, and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Mrs Fay Walton  
*Headteacher*