

Own clothes
tomorrow
(No charge!)

Newsletter

17th December 2009



Thank you so much for all of your kind remarks about the Carol Service, it was a wonderful evening. The children excelled themselves; we felt so proud and we think that it really brought home the important message of Christmas. As I (Mrs Martin) am so visible on the night, it is easy to presume that I am responsible for the very high standard and I do prepare the music but an occasion like that can not come together without a great team effort. All the teachers and teaching assistants support rehearsals really effectively and coach children individually. Mrs Moss has been instrumental this year, as Mrs Horstead has unfortunately broken her wrist badly (a very extreme way to get out of cooking Christmas dinner!) Mrs Moss has sorted out the tableau, the costumes, the readings and poems and the Y6 helpers. Mrs Stratton came in to teach Mrs Horstead's class and immediately volunteered to help on the night. This collaboration between staff, the much closer relationship with Governors and the continued partnership with parents is what makes this school so special and so successful.



Sasha Johnson-Manning and Robin Coulthard have also supported us this Christmas, accompanying rehearsals and the Carol Service. We feel honoured to have worked with them and would like to thank them again.

The Parents' Choir appeared to shock everyone with how fantastic they were. They were great from the start and we had a lot of fun. Many participants had not sung since school and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I am sure that we will do this again!



The Manchester Carols – Naxos are now producing the CDs of The Manchester Carols and we are able to sell some of the original recordings at a reduced cost. Copies are available from the school office for £5. The children and parents choir loved the four that we sang and we were privileged to be the first primary school to perform them (and even more amazingly to have been accompanied by the composer.) The lyrics were written by Carol Anne Duffy (the Poet Laureate).

A.A.I.R. Collection – Thank you so much for your contributions to this great cause. The total raised from the collections after the Nativity plays and the Carol Service was £1,425, an amazing amount! Thank you so much. I have contacted the Anderson family who did not feel up to attending the Carol Service but are touched and comforted by the support shown by the school – we send them our very best wishes at, what must be, a difficult time. We think that as the children have worked so hard for these performances and the parents have already been so generous, that we will allow the children to wear their own clothes on Friday without paying. They have earned it! They may also bring in board games to play (no computer or electronic games please.)

Bags2School – you will have received your bags now and these should be brought into school on Wednesday 13th January by 9am. Please bring them that morning if at all possible as we have no storage space. If you will be walking to school, please bring it the afternoon before.



Friday Football – As is usual on a 1.30pm finish day, Friday football will take place from 1.30pm to 3pm this week.

Parking on York Road – Our long suffering neighbours are really very patient but I did have a good natured complaint from an elderly and infirm lady this week, who could not park anywhere near her own house and encountered little sympathy when appealing to drivers. As I informed her, I obviously can not stop people from parking legally but please do be considerate, we are dependent on the goodwill of our neighbours – especially when applying for planning permission for a community classroom etc.



Christmas Parties – This year we received a very kind and generous donation of £75 towards the children's parties from the Bowdon Vale Residents Association. It was lovely of them to think of us and I am sure that the children have appreciated the prizes and pass the parcels etc. during the parties.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch – The Y6 choir members provided the cabaret for this occasion yesterday and they sang superbly and were simply delightful when mingling afterwards. I felt so proud of them; they were a credit to the school.

Holocaust Memorial Day – In a case of 'more haste, less speed' I put the wrong date on the letter for this (Y6 choir) and put the 7th January instead of the 27th. If this date creates problems for anyone who has indicated that their child can attend, please let me know. It is an honour to be asked to represent Trafford for this special occasion.

NSPCC Cake Sale – The Y6s have been busy baking and planning games again and Amy, Lucy, Shauna, Beth, Eleanor and Qareen held a cake sale and games activities last week, raising over £77 for the NSPCC. Well done girls.



Road Safety Competition – This year's road safety officers are Sarah Johnson, Thomas Turner, Georgia Brown and William Blair. They have just held a competition for Y3s to design outfits suitable for high visibility and the winners were: Annie Hayton and Sam Heyworth. Well done to them and to the road safety officers for their organisational skills and thank you to Mrs Murray, who is working with them to develop their role.



Bird food – Y6 will soon be starting their bird watch and we need to encourage the birds to visit our fantastic array of feeders. Any donations of bird food would be gratefully received.

Retirement – One of our long serving lunchtime ladies, Eileen Ardern, has retired at the end of term, after 35 years! She writes that she has been very happy working at the school and will miss us, but will pop back from time to time to visit. We will miss her, hope that she has a lovely Christmas and that she will indeed visit us soon.

If anyone is looking for a small job for an hour and a bit a day, then do think about becoming a lunchtime assistant. At this school it involves working with lovely children, cheerful colleagues and having a superb free dinner every day. We are happy to consider appointments for two, three or four days if you are not able to work all five. It is a very suitable job for someone with school age children or someone who has reached retirement age.



We wish you all a very peaceful and joyful Christmas
and a happy New Year!

