



8th December 2011 Newsletter

Christmas Fair - The Christmas Fair on Saturday was absolutely superb. It was lovely to see the whole community coming together, congratulations to the PTA organisers and helpers. I know that everyone appreciates the amount of work that goes into making these events so successful and such fun. It was especially good to see so many past pupils, proudly wearing their leavers' sweatshirts; the staff always enjoy the opportunity to catch up on their news. Although it was all fabulous and everyone worked hard special mention must go to Alex Prichard, Lorraine Thompson and Steve Oakley, who led the Christmas Fair team this year and to Kirsty Grieves for the very special Santa experience that she created for the children.



As usual the raffles and tombolas were well stocked and popular. We still have several prizes in the office awaiting collection. I will obviously not print telephone numbers in the newsletter but if you think that one of these may be yours or that of a friend, please call into the office to check:

3rd prize – O'Hagan, 4th prize – Joanne Glass
5th prize – Catherine, 7th prize – Walsh
22nd prize – Charis Clarkson



Reception Nativity

We all needed tissues for the delightful Reception Nativity (for the tears of laughter as well as the lump in the throat). The real meaning of Christmas is alive and well at Bowdon Church School and is clear in the lovely faces of the children, singing their hearts out. Well done to all of the children and thank you for all that you gave to your audience. Congratulations to the staff, producing something

like this with only four and five year olds is an achievement in itself.

Past Pupil Success - Congratulations to our past pupils who had their GCSE certificate presentation at Altrincham Boys' Grammar School last week. We are absolutely delighted to report out of thirteen special awards, four were made to our boys for their outstanding performance. Alex Brierley was awarded the Manchester Geological Association Prize; Alex Diamond, the ICL Prize for ICT; Michael King the Andy Price Prize for Football and Gavan Hitchener, the Robert Anderson Prize for PE. This last one is especially fitting because Robert (who tragically died on 18.8.09) was also a well loved pupil at this school. We talk to the Y6 pupils about moving on and making us proud, well the entire Y11 2011 cohort has done exactly that. Our past pupils' GCSE results from every secondary school have been outstanding.

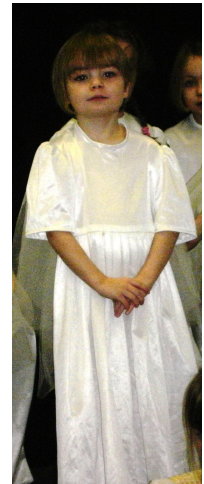
Naming clothes - After a big 'to-do' in Reception this week, when the child without a tunic insisted that the one left on a chair was not theirs and was distraught; can we please ask that you check your child's removable items of clothing to see that they are named. Pen does wash off and therefore needs renewing regularly. We have also just sorted through the Junior lost property and a huge number of items are un-named, including coats and trainers.

Carol Service

It is with great excitement that we are now rehearsing regularly with Sasha Johnson-Manning, the composer of the Manchester Carols. The final arrangements for next Tuesday have been put into place. There are some tickets available for the 4pm service and just a few for the 7pm one. Tickets will be collected at the door and so please remember to bring them because people without tickets can not be admitted as numbers are limited due to health and safety regulations.

We always prefer the packed lunch children to bring a proper lunch box to school because (a) it keeps the food fresher and (b) you can check how much your child is eating. However on Tuesday next week it would be helpful if the lunch was disposable and then they will not have to carry a lunch box up to church. In fact we would also suggest that the children do not bring even a school bag on Tuesday, just a coat etc. would be most helpful because then they have less to forget and store.

All of the Junior children will need a disposable packed tea (no sweets or glass bottles please.) We will have cups to provide drinks of water and paper towels etc. We have access to the whole of the Parish Centre and will be providing a supervised, fun interlude between the two services. Each year group will be having a turn in one hall playing organised games while the others have their tea and watch cartoons. In addition to saving parents from going backwards and forwards, this is going to be great fun for the children – like a giant Christmas party and we are sure that it will add to their memories of this very special occasion.



Infant Nativity

I have just watched the Y1/2 nativity in the first (Community) performance and it was superb. All of the children have a special part to play and when they all stand to take a bow at the end it makes you realise both how much they benefit from the opportunity to perform like this, how much the audience gets from it and how much work goes into putting it all together. Well done to the children and the staff for another fabulous nativity play.

In addition to members of the local and church community; staff and residents from the Our Lady of the Vale nursing home at the back of school came on Wednesday and had a lovely time. It is important for us to remember what all of this preparation for and this performance helped us with that. A lovely lady called Anne who was a teacher for over 40 years and who is 100 on Tuesday came to watch and was absolutely thrilled by the whole experience, especially when Y2 came out to sing an early happy birthday to her. The enjoyment that she, her friend and the rest of the audience got from simply being invited to watch a nativity play and for them, to see children again brought an important message to us all.

P.T.A. News

Christmas Fair

We hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas Fair. The atmosphere was fantastic and so many people commented on how much they enjoyed it.



Thank you for all the donations and to everyone who helped make the fair such a success. We raised over **£4000**.

A Huge Thank You to Kirsty Grieves for a magical grotto. Kirsty is a reception parent who kindly offered the use of her bell tent and decorated it. It was fantastic to see and hear so many children talking about how wonderful it was. Check out her website www.mylittletentevent.co.uk Also thanks to Jon Grieves who did an amazing job supplying and cooking delicious food (Jon has a restaurant in Manchester - Choice)

Thank you to Richard Fox, a Yr 1 parent, who works for Barclays Bank where they have a £ for £ matching scheme for monies raised by staff for good causes/charities. Richard ran the Raffle Stall so we are looking forward to receiving approx £750.

We are always looking for ways to improve the fair so if you have any ideas or would like to be involved please post them to the PTA Box in the entrance hall.

With many thanks

The Christmas Fair Team, Alex Prichard, Lorraine Thompson and Steve Oakley.

All Age Worship - The morning service at St. Mary's this week is for all ages and it will feature Trekkers performing their Nativity play. School families are warmly invited and we have chosen the carols to ensure that the children are familiar with them.

First Steps – This month's toddler service takes place next Thursday 15th December, at the usual time of 1.45pm – but this month only the venue has changed and you will be meeting at the Parish Centre. There will be lots of Christmas songs, stories, crafts and free-play. All are welcome.

Tea Towels – The tea towels are now ready and are available to order from the school office (form attached). The price for one tea towel is £5, with two for £8. One tea towel features the Infant department and one the Juniors. There is plenty of fun to be had spotting different children's self portraits!

Indoor Cricket Training – Bowdon Vale Cricket Club is offering cricket training for under 11s at Trafford College (Sports Barn) on Thursday evenings beginning 12/1/12 for twelve weeks from 7pm to 8pm. This is open to boys and girls in Years 5 and 6 costing approx. £36 for the twelve weeks. The emphasis is on fun sessions, using 'soft' balls only and delivering a basic cricket training programme around the fielding, batting and bowling disciplines. The plan is to join South Manchester Cricket League playing matches on Sunday mornings. Anyone who is interested, please see Mr Hamblett.

Infant Playground – As you can see, the Infant playground has a drainage problem. We have now discovered that the drains have completely collapsed. We will deal with this as soon as possible but in the meantime the children are being encouraged to resist the temptation to paddle!