

St. Michael's Newsletter



Friday, 18th December 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Term

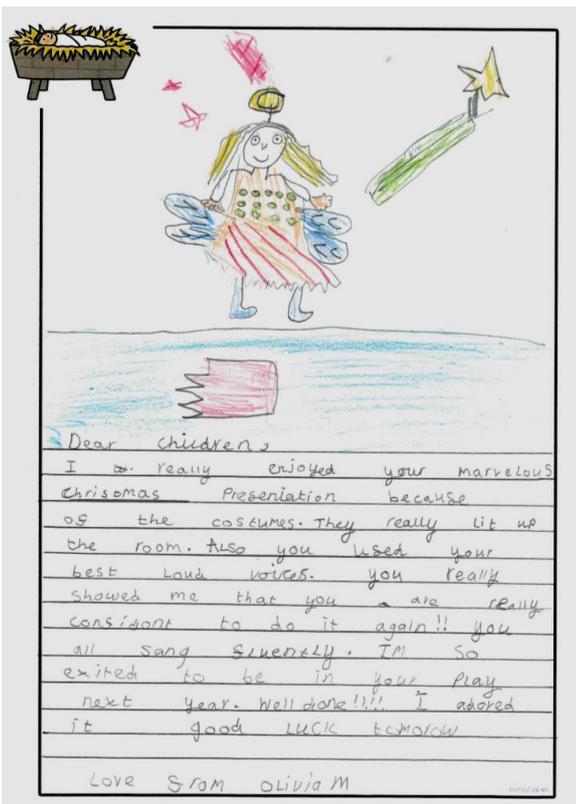
As we rapidly approach the end of a long term, we can look back on a time when staff and children have worked very hard and achieved very well. The children look very tired, but excited about what Christmas will hold for them! I would like to thank all parents and carers for your support during the term and for those parents who have been to see me for whatever reason; it is always good to chat and try and find solutions to problems. On behalf of all the staff, governors and the children, we would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy new year.

Non- pupil Day

Monday, 4th January 2016 is a non-pupil day and the children return to school on Tuesday, 5th January 2016.

The Magical Christmas Jigsaw

The children in Year 3 and 4 presented a magical story about a group of children who are given an old jigsaw by a toy seller. It tells the Christmas story and the last piece of the jigsaw is the baby Jesus. The children in Year 4 took the leading roles and sang and spoke beautifully, well supported by the children in Year 3, some of whom had speaking and singing parts. All the children performed their parts brilliantly and parents really supported their children by clapping and cheering them on their way! The children from Galleywood Infants School came over and watched the dress rehearsal on Monday morning and a child in Year 2 wrote this beautiful piece about her experience:-



The Magical Christmas Jigsaw

A review by Lewis Curtis

Firstly, I would like to say that I (and I'm sure upper school would agree) know every single child played a pivotal part in the rehearsal and presentation of *The Magical Christmas Jigsaw* and performed splendidly, with fluent words and excellent emotion, all packed into a short, fast-paced production. Also, the staff in charge are due much credit, as they thoroughly practiced on a daily basis with the year 3s and 4s, seemingly effortlessly implanting complex words, choreography and songs in an extremely short period of time; yet sometimes words were forgotten and dances performed with less charisma than we would expect. But, not everything always goes smoothly on a dress rehearsal, and isn't that the point? Isn't it intended to be a form of simulator where the actors can face their fears and eradicate their nerves? Anyhow, this was a fantastic performance, with some amusing features i.e. Ethan's headdress toppling to the ground, and I wish the performers good luck for the real thing (which will make a modicum of sense to you, but I'm writing from Tuesday and the proper play hasn't taken place yet). I am positive that the performance will be exceptional and know that the audience will enjoy it thoroughly.

Lewis Curtis, 60.



Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday, many of the children and staff enjoyed a superb Christmas lunch cooked by Mrs. Eley, Mrs. Gowers and Mrs. Thomas. There was traditional turkey with all the trimmings which Mrs. Eley had put in the oven at 6:00 am and a beautiful selection of puddings. Crackers were pulled and Mr. Foster danced with Mrs. Storrar. It was a very happy occasion!



Barrowload of Christmas Raffle

The Christmas raffle was drawn at the evening performance of The Magical Christmas Jigsaw. The winner of the wheelbarrow was Jaiden Palmer's Grandad – well done! The two cases of Christmas drinks were won by Christine Thomas and Alfie Marjoram (or rather Alfie's mum and dad!) and the free horse riding lesson was won by Isabella Caviel. Year 3 did rather well. The boy's toy hamper was won by Ben Brown and the girls hamper was won by Imogen Ayres, again in year 3. Thank you to all the parents and friends who supported the raffle to raise much needed funds for school. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Carol Service

On Thursday morning, the school walked up to St. Michael's Church for our annual carol service. There were some beautiful readings and some wonderful choral and instrumental music from the children. There were many parents, grandparents and friends in the church to celebrate with us and to join in the congregational carols. Andy, Polly and Caroline gave a talk and lead prayers and a Christmas blessing. It was a beautiful occasion.

Dangerous Parking

We have had a complaint from a neighbour about the unsafe parking in Markham Close. Parents are parking on grass verges blocking the sight lines when people have to pull out onto Barnard Road. Please think about the safety of our families and their children when parking and please park carefully and with consideration for others. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Major Tim Peake

On Tuesday morning, all the school came into the hall just before 11:00 am and watched the countdown and launch of the Soyuz rocket which had Tim Peake in it as one of the three cosmonauts. The children were engrossed as the rocket blasted into space and all of them broke into spontaneous applause as the rocket safely left the earth's atmosphere; it was very exciting!

Attendance

We are reinstating certificates for 100% attendance each term. All children who achieve 100% over the whole year will receive a special treat in July. 82 children have achieved 100% attendance this term and will have their certificates presented in Achievers' Assembly on Friday. Congratulations to them all!

Menu week 3 week commencing 4.1.16 - new winter menus – on website.

Dates for your Diary

Friday, 18th December – Break up for the Christmas holidays @ 3:20pm

Sunday, 20th December @ 6:30 pm – Carol Service at St. Michael's Church – Choir to sing

Monday, 4th January 2016 – Non-Pupil Day

Tuesday, 5th January 2016 – Children return to school from 8:40 am

Tuesday 5th January – Friday, 8th January – Shakespeare 4 Kidz working with all classes on Romeo and Juliet

Monday, 11th January @ 7:00 pm at the school – SMASH Committee Meeting

Monday, 8th February @ 4:00 – 6:30 pm - Parent Consultation Evening

Wednesday, 10th February @ 4:00 – 6:30 pm - Parent Consultation Evening

Friday, 12th February – Break up for the half term holiday

Monday, 22nd February – Children return to school

Wednesday, 23rd March – The Easter service at St. Michael's Church @ 10:00 am

Thursday, 24th March – Break up for the Easter holiday

Monday, 11th April – Non-Pupil Day

Tuesday, 12th April – Children return to school

Week beginning 9th May – SATs exam week – Year 6

Friday 27th May – Break up for the half term holiday

Yours sincerely



Maria Rumsey
Headteacher