



DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, we have found our way through several very hectic and 'full-on' months and now find ourselves at the beginning of December. Three weeks remain until we break up for the Christmas holiday!

Staffing

We are sad that after fifteen years of working at school, Jean Lea has retired from her work as a Midday Assistant. In addition, Claudia Vega Roulet will be finishing after four years as a Midday Assistant, at the end of term. We will miss both of them at school and we are really grateful for all they have contributed to our team over the years. We are welcoming Laura Griffiths and Hayley Paul to the Midday team.

Christmas performances

Our Infant Nativity performances take place at **9.30am on Friday 14th December** and at **6pm on Tuesday 18th December**. Please do bear in mind that the evening performance in particular can be extremely busy; please consider attending on the Friday morning, particularly if you have young children that may become tired or upset later in the day. This gives the children on stage a chance to be heard; some of them only have little voices, so audience participation does not always help them! Please bear in mind how busy these performances get and plan to attend only one performance, to allow space for everyone.

The Junior carol concert at St Peter's Church takes place on **Wednesday 19th December at 7pm**. Please do ensure that the children arrive in good time and do take account of the fact that the church can get very crowded. On Thursday 13th December at 1.30pm, Y5 and Y6 will rehearse at the Church. All the Junior children will walk down on the afternoon of Tuesday 18th December at 1.15pm for their final rehearsal; we would appreciate offers of help to walk the children down on both occasions, please let your child's teacher know if you are available to help.

We will hold a retiring collection for Claire House hospice at all our Christmas celebrations, the children will wait by the exits to receive any donations.

Christmas post box

The Christmas post box will be set up during next week, so that the children can send cards to classmates, friends and staff in school. Year Six will give out the cards around school and we would like all the children to use the postbox, as Year Six do enjoy giving the cards out. Please help them by ensuring that all envelopes have the recipient's first name, surname and class clearly written on them.

Family information

Please could parents endeavour to inform us of any changed family circumstances that may lead to their child being less settled than usual, so that staff can be aware of any reasons for possible upset. This includes a parent being away for a while, whether planned or unplanned.

PTA news

The Chocolate Bingo evening was yet again, a fantastic success and was incredibly busy. Over £700 was raised by this event alone – thanks to everyone that attended and to the parents and staff that helped to make the evening go so well.

The **Christmas Fair** takes place today (Friday 30th November) and I would like to thank everyone that has contributed in any way to help, whether it is through providing jars, bottles or teddies or volunteering to set up or run a stall. Our choir will perform at 5.30pm in the Hall, do come and join their lovely singing.

The **Christmas Shop** will take place on Thursday 6th December in the Dee Room. For those new to the school, we set up a shop with a range of gifts and the children are allowed to choose and wrap gifts for their nearest and dearest. The children absolutely love Christmas Shop and the element of surprise on Christmas Day. Gifts are £2 each. Please pay on Parent Pay for the total items you would like and fill in the green form (your child will have brought home) and return this to school. We need lots of volunteer parents to help the children wrap their presents, please do offer your assistance – not only is it lots of fun, it's also a lovely session with the children.

A **wreath-making evening** will be held on Wednesday 5th December in the school Hall (starting at 7pm). Come along to create a lovely natural door decoration to enhance the home this Christmas!

We would love to see as many adults as possible helping out with the '**Carol wagon**' collection on **Monday 10th December**, leaving from school at 6.30pm. Due to regulations, only adult volunteers may accompany the wagon. Please do offer to help out with this, it's really enjoyable, we get fed and watered en-route and most importantly, a large proportion of the collection goes straight to the school. Our route takes in a good part of our catchment area, starting from Gayton Lane and going along roads such as Beverley Drive, Kingsway, Latchford Road and Dee Park Road, then towards Well Lane and Long Meadow/Lilyfield. We need a minimum of 12 adults for this to be a success but it really is a case of 'the more, the merrier'. Come along and meet **by the car park at 6.15pm** to offer your help on the night...don't forget your Santa hat!

There is a Junior and Infant Christmas film night on Tuesday 11th December at 3.30pm. The last PTA meeting of 2018 takes place in the Jug and Bottle at 7.30pm that same evening. Thanks to our PTA members and volunteers for all the hard work they've put in this term to make such a success of the events. Please carry on supporting us!

Charity events

Hopefully, you will all have seen the email about the filled rucksack collection for the Charles Thompson mission for local homeless people. Please do return the rucksacks by Friday 7th December. Information about the appeal can be found here: <https://charlesthompsonsmmission.org.uk/christmas-appeal-2018/>

Parking

Please do volunteer to help with our ongoing campaign to keep the roads clear of parked cars, by offering to put out a few cones before 8.40am and/or at 3pm. Just one session per week is a massive help to keep the children a little bit more safe!

Other upcoming events

On Friday 14th December, we would love all the children to come to school wearing Christmas jumpers in return for a minimum £1 donation to 'Save the Children'.

On the morning of Monday 17th December, we will have our 'Good to be Green' treat session for those children that have earned this additional treat.

Our Pre-school children will perform their Christmas nativity to parents and families on Tuesday 18th December at 9.30am.

The school Christmas lunch takes place on Wednesday 19th December.

On Thursday 20th December, we will be taking all the children to watch 'The Grinch' at the Light Cinema in New Brighton.

The children may bring in non-electronic games or toys of their choice on the last day of term (Friday 21st December) – please do ensure that everything is clearly marked with your child's name!

Finally, as mentioned previously, **we break up at 12.30pm on 21st December**; the kitchen will serve a packed lunch bag on this day – please do inform the office if your child normally has school lunch but they will be bringing their own packed lunch on this day instead.

The children return on **Tuesday 8th January**. Despite the fact there are still a few weeks to go before we break up, I do hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break with the children.

Yours sincerely

Mark Whitehill Headteacher

