

# Lockington CE VC Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As Christmas is only a few days away and a new year is just around the corner, I would like to share with you some of our most recent news.

## Church School

This term our values have been 'courage' and 'thankfulness'. The children certainly have had opportunities to show courage, whether performing on the stage, singing in public or striving to achieve and excel in academic or sporting challenges. This time of year is an ideal time to reflect upon the importance of thankfulness, with the commercialisation of Christmas almost inescapable. The Christingle Service was an ideal opportunity to reflect upon the importance of Christmas, with lit candles providing a time of stillness, a time to think. Thank you to Rev'd Marshman for the beautiful service and to the children who read the Christmas story, prayers and poems so beautifully.

## School Strategic Plan

This year's strategic plan has been agreed by the school's governing body, based on self-evaluation, and this year our priorities are:

- To develop the use of technology to motivate and inspire engagement and creativity.
- To further develop key skills, problem solving and fluency in mathematics from an early age.
- To ensure pupils have a strong grasp of phonics and spelling and are able to produce handwriting with speed and fluency.

## League tables

We are regularly frustrated by the small size of our cohorts when it comes to league tables - often we cannot publish our Key Stage 2 results. However, this year our 2017 results have been published as the cohort size was large enough. The league tables appeared last week – and I was delighted to see the school came third in the East Riding Local Authority for pupils 'working at greater depth'. Progress in writing for our pupils was 'well above average'. In 2016 we were top of the LA unpublished league table. This really is a great achievement for our school: a result of the talent and hard work of our pupils and staff, supported by our fantastic parents.

## The Magical Christmas Jigsaw

I hope you enjoyed our Christmas production, "The Magical Christmas Jigsaw". I was very impressed with the ability of the pupils to learn their lines and deliver them so well, dance and sing with such enthusiasm and produce such a thoroughly enjoyable performance. They really do work well as a



team and they can project their voices so well! Thank you to the staff, pupils and parents for bringing it all together – a lot of work goes on behind the scenes, as well as on stage. The children develop so much in confidence and our talented performers have their chance to shine – sometimes making even their single line stand out! Well done to all – and thank you for your generosity in donating to the collection which raised £76 towards the cost of the production.

### **After-school and breakfast clubs**

Thank you to all parents, staff and pupils who completed the questionnaires. They were overwhelmingly supportive - it is encouraging to see how much you value this service and staff. Some very constructive suggestions have been included, which we hope to be able to implement in the spring term.

### **Attendance**

Overall the attendance of children in the school is excellent and we thank all parents for their support in ensuring their child has good attendance. Our target this year is 97%, set through discussion with the Local Authority.

### **Enterprise Projects**

We want our pupils to learn to be entrepreneurial, confident, well prepared for adulthood and ethical: part of our economic and financial education is to teach them the value of money and fundraising, not exclusively for themselves but for the benefit of the wider community, and to this end we have had many fund raising activities as summarised below:

Class 1 raised £50; Class 2 raised £70 at the Christmas Fair. Class 1's project involved recycling jars to create Christmas containers; Class 2 recycled paper to create Christmas gift bags and used willow from our willow tunnel to create Christmas wreaths.

### **Carol Singers**

We were pleased to be invited to Carol Sing in a well-known supermarket in Beverley earlier this month. This was a great experience - the power of song filled the aisles as the children performed songs from their Christmas production and some of their favourite carols. Well done to all – this was something new and I believe something that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Miss Peacock, who organised the choir, was delighted with the children and thrilled that so many parents came to support. £110.61 was raised for Yorkshire Cancer Research.

### **Children in Need**

The School Council organised a bun stall and colouring competition – well done to enterprising charity fund raisers; to all pupils who took part and to the generous parents who provided the buns. Well done also to Harry and Daisy who won the colouring competition for producing such great pictures - it was tough to pick a winner, there were so many fantastic entries. All in all, £113.79 was raised and donated to Children in Need.

### **Staffing**

We are sorry to say goodbye to Mr Wicks who has done a great job in Year 5/6 over the last three months. We wish him well with his hip operation. We are also sorry to see Miss Phipps leave. She has covered a staff absence over the last few months and done a super job. Thank you very much to them



both. Mrs Turner will be returning in January and Mrs Goytizolo will be taking over from Mr Wicks. We look forward to welcoming her to the school.

### Friends of the School

The Christmas Hamper Raffle raised £172.02 this year. Thank you to all involved. Congratulations to the winners, Mrs Roberts and Mrs Warburton. The sales of Christmas Cards raised £114.50 – the children created some fabulous designs which we hope you enjoy. The Christmas Fair raised £696.33. This is an amazing amount for our little school. All funds raised go towards resources and visits for the children in the school, including the visit to the pantomime earlier this week.

At a time when we are all feeling the pinch, it is heart-warming to see people helping so freely and giving time so generously.

It just leaves me to wish you a very happy Christmas and a successful and peaceful 2018. The children will return to school on 9<sup>th</sup> January and we look forward to a settled and happy start to the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Julie Cattle

Headteacher

