

## 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am sure all of us are ready for break and I hope you all manage to have a rest over the festive season, if only for a day or two!

I also wanted to take the opportunity to congratulate all the children from WASC who entered an art completion for Suburban magazine. All the pieces of art are displayed in this month's issue. Special congratulations to Millie F for her winning entry, which earned her a prize of £50 and £50 for our Parents Association to spend on the children in school. Thanks Millie!



## Assembly Themes

We have been finding out about the religious festivals, stories and customs of Hanukah and Advent. The children have discussed how at this time of year the importance of lights in the dark months is a common feature.

Well done to our 'Best I Can Be' certificate winners who shared their work or great learning behaviours with the school in Friday Assemblies.

**Reception** – Grace M, Dougie T & Jesse D

**Year 1** – Lily W & Logan S

**Year 2** – Eva M & Frankie C

**Year 3** – Charlotte M & Emily W-G

**Year 4** – Thomas B & Sebi J-G

**Year 5** – Nathan M, Finley D, Aphra T

**Year 6** –

### Christmas Tree Festival

The school choir spent a fabulous afternoon at Otley Parish Church last week when they took part in the annual Otley Christmas Tree Festival. After a brisk walk down to the church in the winter sunshine the children had time to look at the amazing array of decorated Christmas trees on display in the church. Each tree had been decorated by a different charitable organization and as members of the public walked around viewing the creations they could make donations to the charity of their choice.

The Whartons choir added a real festive atmosphere to the event with their wonderful singing



### Santa Gift Appeal Visit

Over the last few weeks we have been collecting small children's gifts and selection boxes on behalf of the Yorkshire Hospitals Christmas Appeal. Thanks to Mrs Metcalf for organizing the appeal collection.

Last Wednesday morning we had a surprise visit from Santa to our whole school assembly. Father Christmas had just been passing school, heard the choir's wonderful singing, and just had to drop in to say hello.

During his visit Father Christmas explained to the children how their kind donations would be used in hospitals and hospices across Leeds to cheer up Christmas for those children who are unable to be at home. Father Christmas told the children that he would help deliver our donations and the selection boxes were to be whisked off to Martin House Christmas party later that week.



- **Skipping Festival**
- **Christmas Jumper Day**
- **KS1 nativity**

### Skipping Festival

Year 4 spent a very energetic morning a couple of weeks ago when Jodie from Skipping School visited The Whartons as part of a skipping school festival. She shared and modelled some fabulous skipping routines with the children. During the Skipping Festival the children learned many amazing and complex new skipping moves such as 'the pretzel', 'the double bounce' and 'the butterfly' to name but a few. The challenge now for the children is to practice their new moves, work together in small and large groups and choreograph a series of skipping routines to music. The class are working towards a presentation of their routines at the local competition heats. If they manage to win their heats, they will secure a place in the Leeds wide stages.

Many children have bought their own skipping ropes and have asked for an area of the school playground to be sectioned off after Christmas for daily practice. What a fabulously fun way of keeping active. Good luck in the competition in March Y4.



## *Christmas Jumper Day*

On Friday last week we all had a 'Jolly Time' in our array of Christmas/Winter Jumpers.

For Christmas Jumper Day all the children who came in festive or winter jumpers were asked to make a £1 donation.

All the donations are in aid of Ward 52 at LGI who look after and rehabilitate children with serious illnesses.

James in year 4 spend a period of time in ward 52 where the doctors, therapists and nurses supported his recovery and liaised with school to ensure James and the rest of the class kept in touch and James felt happy to return to the bustle of school life.

Thanks to all the staff at ward 52, keep up the amazing work



## Key Stage 1 Nativity

Thank you to Mr Brown who once again this year really helped our nativity to sparkle by kindly lending and then fitting a lighting rig in the school hall to spot light all our amazing little stars!

This year's production 'Wriggly Nativity' tells the Christmas story through the excitement of all the children, animals, angels, stars, kings and visitors who quite literally are wriggly with anticipation of the exciting new arrival.

The production of this traditional story with a twist was quite magical and really set the Christmas mood; filling the hall with excitement and sparkle. The children's singing, dancing and acting were spectacular. The mood was quirky and humorous and the costumes were fabulous. Well done to all the reception and KS1 staff who managed to help the children create an unforgettable show with a clear message for their parents and the school community. What a fabulous start to the festive week.



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### **Diary Dates**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019**-School Reopens

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January**-PTA Meeting 7.15pm

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan**-Year 1 Bun Sale

**W/C Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb**-Year 6 Residential Week

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb**-PTA Meeting 7.15pm

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb**-School Closes for Half Term

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb**-School Reopens

## **Christmas Fair and Santa Stalls**

The Parents Association have been very busy over the last couple of weeks organizing the annual Christmas Fair and Santa stalls.

The Christmas Fair was great fun and really well attended, I know Santa thoroughly enjoyed his visit and was kept busy for the whole time. The children were treated to a chat with Santa and a story from his Elf helper. There were stalls a plenty, a chance to sit and rest at the café with a coffee (or mulled wine) and a mince pie, a fabulous raffle with some amazing prizes (thanks to all those businesses who donated) and the Year 6 children did a great job of running the games area. The fair raised over £1000 for PTA funds!

Santa Stalls run by a team of parents this year were amazing. It is always so exciting for children to actually buy 'secret' presents for family members by themselves.

The array of presents was fabulous, Mrs Gomes and myself went in to do a little last minute shopping of our own.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Laura Cook who has worked tirelessly on the Parents Association for the last 4 years and is stepping down this year. She has sourced fabulous gifts for the Santa stalls, Mother's and Father's day stalls, alongside many other jobs on the PA. Thanks for all your hard work Laura, have a well-earned rest, you will be missed.

## **Key Stage 2 Carol Concert**

The Key Stage two children this year staged a beautiful Carol Concert for the whole school in the school hall this week, and then again for parents and family down at Bridge Street United Reform Church in the evening.

The atmosphere was magical in the church and ensured a focus on the real value and meaning of Christmas, which is a time for families and thanks.

The children sang a range of traditional and recognizable Christmas carols and songs often with upbeat, catchy music and some complex harmonies to wow the audience. The children have had great fun learning the songs and there is nothing quite like working together as a team to produce something really amazing and perform in front of family and friends. What a lovely start to the festive period!

We would like to thank Rev Jason McCullagh, the staff and volunteers at Bridge Street Church for inviting us to hold our Carol Concert at Church and making us so welcome. Merry Christmas to Everyone.



### **A final Note:**

Remember the term starts again on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Julia Dickson*