



HOLYWELL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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BB/TW

17th December 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

NEWSLETTER

What a busy term - it has flown by! The children have enjoyed good quality teaching and learning with many enhancements to the curriculum such as: visits to a Sikh temple, visits from 'Professor McGinty' (who brought The Egyptians and Romans to life) and a Punch and Judy Show to recreate an old fashioned seaside event (and many more!)

House of Fun Week

Key Stage 2 had a great week in November. Each afternoon the children worked in their houses participating in dance, music, art and D&T. This was a competitive week culminating in a Holywell General Knowledge Challenge and a show case of the winning entries from each house. Mrs Millett and myself had a very difficult time judging the entries as they were of such high quality. The theme was 'Wattage' which fits in with what our Eco committee is working on this term. Thanks must go to Miss Davies who organised the week superbly! Key Stage 1 also joined in with different activities during this week in their classrooms.

Eco Committee

Under the expert guidance of Miss Troth the eco committee represented the school at the Pyramid school debate in November where they presented Holywell's ideas to go green. The committee focussed on the 5 'W's which are waste, water, walking, wattage and world. Holywell chose wattage as our focus. The committee practised their presentation for the debate to the school and it was excellent! We have now been awarded a Silver Award for eco. We are very proud of this committee.



The School Council

The School Council meets monthly to discuss what is going well or not in school. Year 6 councillors are becoming very proficient at chairing meetings - I'm looking forward to passing the minuting of the meetings over to them in January!

Charities

Children in Need raised over £800 through the ever popular cake sales, non school uniform day and "visiting teddies".

It was good to be able to support The Primrose Hospice once again by selling the 'Christmas Teddies'.

£1000 was raised for MENCAP by completing the millions of miles challenge in support of Mrs Penfold who ran 100 miles across The Himalayas for this charity in October. (Mrs Penfold came first in the women's race and 5th overall out of 50 competitors!)

Thank you very much for supporting these charities!

The Holywell Choir

The Choir took part in an amazing evening of entertainment to raise money for the CLIC Sargent Appeal (a national charity supporting children with cancer). This event took place on the 9th December at the NIA. Holywell joined many other schools and thousands of school children to sing in the Young Voices Choir and sang an extremely ambitious programme of songs - it was simply wonderful! It was a privilege to be part of the trip and I know the children, in the future, will particularly remember this event from their days at Holywell. Mrs Goddard, Miss Davies and I were extremely proud of the way the children behaved - they were a credit to themselves and the school.

Mrs Goddard also took her class to sing Christmas songs at "The Old Folks" Christmas party at the Beacon Centre on the 5th December - an event thoroughly enjoyed by all! Thank you children, and an enormous thank you to Mrs Goddard for her commitment to the school and the choir.

Sports News

Year 4 Footballers were the champions in a pyramid football tournament held at Lickey in November. Recently children from Years 4, 5, and 6 took part in a Cross Country event in November. They all showed grit and determination in completing the event in very inclement conditions!

Road Safety

All the children from Nursery to Year 6 learnt more about road safety this month from Mrs Barbara Woods Road Safety Officer for the area. A gentle

reminder! - please walk the children to school if you can, for health reasons and to ease congestion on the school drive and Gunner Lane.

The Book Fair

The Book Fair was very well attended and we were able to choose over £530 worth of free books for the school library and classrooms.

Christmas Productions

The children throughout the school delighted packed houses with their Christmas productions. It was good to see every child in the school having the opportunity to perform to their families.

The Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair was superbly organised by The Holywell School Fundraisers. The atmosphere was very Christmassy and happy. The school was packed and a massive £2000 was raised for the children to benefit from. Thank you very much Fundraisers, and thank you to all those who supported this event.

Christmas Treats

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 enjoyed Christmas Parties, they were entertained by Mr Popple, a magician **and** Father Christmas arrived to give every child a present! Key Stage 2 were treated to a pantomime - Cinderella.

Soup and Potatoes

Soup and Potatoes will be available from January 5th, 50p a day, paid daily. Soup days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday and Potato Days are Tuesday and Thursday.

Staff News

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Millett is recovering well from her operation and all being well will return to school by the end of January.

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Charles who has taken up her position as Foundation Stage Leader and we also welcome back Miss Blundell (Year 3 teacher) after her Maternity Leave.

We are extremely sad to be saying goodbye, at the end of this term, to Mr Davis who is emigrating to Australia with his family. Mr Davis has made an enormous contribution to the whole school since his arrival just over 2 years ago. He brought with him not only experience and knowledge which has benefitted the school but also a great sense of humour which Mrs Millett and myself have thoroughly enjoyed in our Senior Management meetings! He has been a great support to us. We wish him, his wife and young children all the very best for their future life 'down under' - he will be hugely missed by all the staff and children.

We are pleased to announce that in January Mr Harrigan is taking up a teaching vacancy within the school and will be teaching Mr Davis's class in Year 6.

Miss Troth will return as Mrs Collier in January. She gets married during the holiday and we wish her and her future husband a very special wedding day and a long and happy life together!

The next term starts for children on Tuesday 5th January 2010. Staff will be in school on Monday 4th for a Teacher Education Day.

Thank you for your continued support of the school. If you have any suggestions on how to make the school an even better place please let us know!

It only remains for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a bright New Year!

Mrs B Biggs
Deputy Head