

Newsletter 2 - November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are quickly approaching the end of the year and gathering momentum for all the fun and festivities that come with this time of year.

Please take some time to read this newsletter carefully, as it contains some important information which will help us all ensure the term ends as smoothly as possible.

### **Realising our Vision**

As you know, in September, we created our new school vision with staff, parents and governors. It is not enough to write a new vision; we must also work hard to ensure the vision is realised and embedded in all that we do. So, I am looking to build a team of staff, pupils, parents and governors who will form a Working Party and meet once a half term to create an action plan that will drive our vision.

If you are interested in becoming part of this team or would like more information, please get in touch. The first Vision meeting will be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 4pm.

### **Parking Wars**

As ever, I ask parents to consider the safety of pupils when parking around school. The Traffic Enforcement Team have been asked to make repeat visits to the school site and will not hesitate to issue parking tickets, if parents are found parking irresponsibly.

I also ask that parents do not drive into the school carpark at any time of the day and to refrain from parking in the disabled carpark, we have disabled governors, children and visitors who need that space at various times of the day.

### **Parent Governor Vacancy**

We still have a parent governor vacancy, which we are hoping to fill soon. Some parents have asked me what it involves and so I will send further information in a separate letter soon.

### **Great Expectations**

You may have heard already, but I am delighted to announce that Mrs Foggin and Mr Soppitt are expecting their first baby together, in March. I am sure you will join me in congratulating the couple and we look forward to the pitter patter of tiny feet very soon! I will send a separate letter regarding Mrs Foggin's maternity leave when I have more information.

### **Safeguarding School**

Just to remind you, we are a Safeguarding School and we have a duty to pass on any concerns regarding a child's safety or welfare to Children's Services.

## **Christmas Festivities**

As we head into the festive season, I wanted to give parents all the information they need in one place.

**Christmas Fair – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 starts at 3pm**

Come and meet Santa, play some festive games, have a try at the tombola and enter the raffle.

We cannot have a successful fair without your generous donations, so please send in any tombola or raffle prizes as soon as possible. We are also looking for helpers to run stalls.

### **Christmas Movie Night**

All children (except Nursery) are invited to come to a Christmas Movie night at school on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm – 5.30pm. Children will be provided with popcorn, ice lollies and drinks throughout the movie. Pay cash on the door or sign to add to your parentpay account. £2 per child.

### **School performances**

We are holding two performances on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December, the morning performance is at 10am and the afternoon at 1.30pm. Entry to each performance will be by ticket only (£2.50 per ticket), with a maximum of 2 per family. Parents can request further reserve tickets if all are not sold. More information to follow.

### **Christmas Parties**

The Christmas parties start at 1pm. KS1 is on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and KS2 on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Children may come dressed in their party clothes or bring them to get changed into. However, please bear in mind that the Green Day attendance and behaviour treat to Bamboozles is also on the morning of Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December and so parents may not want their child to wear their party clothes for this.

Children will be given drinks and party snacks during the party – if parents want to donate packaged treats for their child's class to enjoy please do so. No home baking please, due to food allergies – we need to know ingredients of food. Thank you.

### **Darlington Hippodrome Pantomime – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

All extra tickets for the Pantomime have been sold now. You may want to add your name to the reserve list in case people drop out. If so, please let Miss Booth know in the office.

All children have a free ticket to the pantomime, paid for by the school PTA and the wonderful fundraising parents and families have done over the year. Thank you.

Parents who have tickets need to be at school for 12.45pm. Parents are accountable for their child during the trip at all times. We will be asking some parents to sit upstairs in the circle with their child as we have 20 seats in a different location and it is safer to keep all other children, who are not with parents, together with staff in the stalls.

Children will be provided with drinks and sweets at the theatre. Can we ask that parents who attend, do not give out sweets to other children because of food allergies.

We can only give an estimated time of return on the evening as it all depends on the traffic. We will send a text message and message on Class Dojo with an estimated time of arrival when we leave the theatre. We ask that parents make sure they are on time to collect children and that we have an up to date telephone number so that you can receive the messages we send.

### **Christmas Carol Service**

Our popular Christmas Carol Service will be held at St. Andrew's Church, on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December and will start at 1.15pm prompt. The children will be singing a range of traditional and modern

Christmas carols to get you all in the mood. We ask that children wear a Christmas jumper on this day.

**Children, whose parents attend the service, may go straight home from the church. The school will close at 2pm and all remaining children must be collected from school by 2pm. Thank you.**

### **Christmas Dinner and Crackers**

All children are invited to have a school Christmas dinner on the last day of term (Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December) A form will be sent out later to request a dinner.

We usually buy Christmas crackers for the occasion but as you can imagine, with 132 pupils, this can be quite costly and the quality of those we can afford, is usually very poor. This year, we are asking parents and carers to each donate at least 1 Christmas cracker each. Your cracker will be given to a random child and any shortfall in crackers will be bought by school, so that every child has a cracker to have with their dinner. We will post a reminder nearer the time!

**There will be no After School clubs from Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December inclusive. In January, we will have new After School Clubs and Intervention groups which will be allocated during the first week of term and will start from 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

School is **closed** for a Staff Training Day on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

Please see attached diary dates for your convenience.

As you can see, we have a very busy time ahead and I ask parents for their patience and co-operation at this time. Our staff work tirelessly to ensure your children have a memorable time at Christmas and should be applauded for their efforts – it really is an exhausting time for them!

I'm sure I will see many of you at these events, but if I don't, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas – even if it is only November!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs N James

Headteacher