



Stockport Grammar Junior School NEWS

16th December 2016

Welcome to the final edition of our Newsletter for 2016. Term has once again sped by, which means we must have been busy and we've definitely been having fun. I very much enjoyed our Infant nativity which featured a number of entertaining dances and some slick dance routines. A number of our Junior children have also been performing, this time as part of a LAMDA assembly, where many of those who take up 'Speech and Drama' lessons impressed us all with the confidence, clarity and variety of their pieces. It was lovely to see so many parents able to join us for our annual carol service, where every child in the Juniors is involved. The standard of singing, playing and reading by our children was extremely high and the whole event was much enjoyed by all. There has been much to entertain the children over the past couple of weeks, with panto and party for Nursery and Infants, panto and discos Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6 (the former featuring the versatile Mr Tully as DJ) and a surprise item for the Juniors yesterday with our first ever 'SGJS Staff Haven't Got Talent'. Mr Tully and I teamed up as the 'Christmas pirates' before introducing Mrs Wells and Miss Knowles on flutes (actually talented!), Mrs Jones fully dressed up to sing 'For the First Time in Forever' from *Frozen* and Mrs Sullivan, Mr Taylor, Mr Milnes and Miss Baker dressed up as elves for... actually, I'm not sure why they were dressed up! We finished with a rendition of *The 12 Days of Christmas* in which different classes are responsible for a section of the song and the whole afternoon was much enjoyed by all. As we come to the end of another successful term, it only remains for me to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing everyone back on January 4th 2017.



Lights! Camel! Action!

Great fun was had by Y1 and Y2 performing their Nativity show, 'Lights, Camel, Action!'. The play was based on a 'Strictly Come Dancing' theme and introduced us to the Nazareth townspeople doing a line dance, the star of Bethlehem and her Starlets Dancing Disco, the camels and the wise men doing a funky dance, the inn keepers dancing a tango, the angels a ballet dance and the sheep and shepherds Morris dancing. Mary and Joseph sang sweetly of their plight and brought a tear to many an eye. The final song, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, provided an opportunity for the audience to join in with the dance moves, which they did with great gusto!



'I am' Christmas Poetry

Y4 have been studying traditional poetry and last week in class they did their own versions of 'I am the song' by Charles Causley. Oliver Feehan in 4S has taken it a step further and done his own poem at home based on Christmas in the same style.

*I am the Santa that delivers the presents
I am the elf that makes the toys
I am the present that's under the tree
I am the reindeer that travels the world
I am the snow that covers the fields
I am the Santa that flies the world
I am the star that shines on the world.*



Sister Act

Sisters Humaira and Saara Gurjee are preparing for a festive theatre show this week as they add the finishing touches to their rehearsals for *Elf Junior; The Musical* at the William Thomas Theatre, Denton. The girls will be playing elves in the show and are part of Centre Pointe Ballet School.



Nursery Get Set for Christmas



Our Nursery children are starting to enjoy the Christmas festivities and have even decided to decorate the garden area. The children had great fun working together to untangle baubles and beads. It was very tricky trying to tie the ribbons! Everyone is definitely on their way to being ready for Christmas now!

Plaque's the Way to Do It!

In their Science lessons, 4R have been looking at how important it is to keep their teeth clean. The children used disclosing tablets to help them see where the plaque builds up. They then brushed their teeth as well as they could to remove the plaque. It was great fun!



A Sticky Situation

As part of their topic on instructions, Y4S made (and ate!) jam sandwiches in their English lesson last week.



Change of Operator for SG3 Service from January 2017

Jones Coaches have advised us that they will no longer be able to operate the SG3 bus service to and from school from January 2017 as it is no longer viable for them to run it on a commercial basis due to the size of coaches they have available for this route.

We recognise the importance of all transport routes and have therefore arranged for a different company, BNG Coaches, to operate a replacement mini-bus service. They will provide a 12 seater minibus following the same route and timings as the SG3 and with a similar pricing structure with effect from 4th January 2017.

Parents of pupils who currently use the service have already been contacted but, should anyone else be interested in using this service, please contact Mr Dave Armett, BNG Coaches

7 Hallsteads, Doveholes, SK17 8BL

01298 812511 | email bngcoaches@aol.com

SPA Christmas Fair

Well over £10,000 was raised at this year's fair. A huge thank you to our SPA and their team of volunteers for providing us all with such an enjoyable and entertaining day.

LAMDA Assembly

Our LAMDA Christmas Assembly was a celebration of Christmas-themed works including *The Night Before Christmas* by Clement Clarke Moore, *What Reminds You Of Christmas?* by Ernestine Northover and *Nativity Play* by Alison Chisholm, beautifully presented by Y3 pupils and *Christmas* by John Betjemen from the Y6 pupils. Y4 joined with Y5 pupils to present *The Grinch*, managing to articulate clearly the difficult language of Dr Seuss. Thank you to all those parents who were able to come along to support the event.

A Happy Birthday to...

Joshua Newey, Krish Vaish, Dylan Zhao, Khadija Khan, Ellie Raynes, Elliot Weedon, Freya Carter, Alexander Johnston, Marco Burns, Lucas White, Rebecca Cook, Florence Batey, Mustansir Ganjifrockwala, Eesa Ansari, Stanley Deen, Katherine Monk, Eddie Poole, Holly Batey, Emma Broomhead, Sean Duckworth, Amelia Blakeley, Kenzie Oakes and Dominic Hanson.

Charity News



Thank you to all our parents for their continuing support for our various charities this Christmas. We sold every one of our Christmas Beanies for Francis House last week and a group of our Y6 pupils have visited the Key 103 Mission Christmas warehouse today to see for themselves how your generous donations are distributed to less fortunate children in our region. The remaining gifts have been gratefully received by the Salvation Army this week.



It has been fantastic to see so many presents under the tree and to be able to say to the children that they have been able to make a difference to the lives of local children.

Reverse Advent

Following a conversation with Jack Dyson about a charity initiative in which his father was involved, a number of classes have chosen to take part in 'Reverse Advent', bringing in food to make up Christmas parcels for those who would otherwise go without. The enthusiasm of the children and the generosity of the contributions has again been fantastic.

Infants Enjoy the Best of Christmas

Last Friday, the Infant children arrived at school in their favourite party clothes ready for a special day. In the morning the children watched a performance of *Dick Whittington* by The Panto Company. There were many hilarious moments which the children loved, lots of traditional pantomime responses to shout and many songs and dances to join in with. Needless to say the wicked rats were seen off with the help of the children's shouts and Dick Whittington married his true love, with much cheering and celebration from the children. In the afternoon, the children had parties with traditional party games and had the chance to show off their dance moves. They were all lucky enough to be visited by Father Christmas and his elves and had the chance to ask a few searching questions, before they had to return to the North Pole to continue with their present making duties.



Disco Fever

Our children in Y3-6 enjoyed their Christmas Discos this week, with an enthusiastic Mr Tully as DJ. All the children had a fabulous time, dancing to the latest tunes with their friends. A special thank you to Mr Tully for giving his time (and throwing some shapes on the dance floor too!).



Bombs Away for Science Club



The children enjoyed a 'fizzy finale' to Science Club last Friday, making bath bombs using different ingredients. Other club activities have included making slime, constructing bridges and making lava lamps, clay fossils and much more. A big favourite was a visit to the Senior School labs to see the animals. The lizard with a blue tongue was amazing! Lots of exciting things are planned for spring term's eager scientists, including making popping candy sherbet.

'The bath bombs were really fizzy.' Sadie Canty

'They smelt like Mrs Hurst's perfume and Science Club is great!' Lucy Jones

Cinderella Shall Go to The Ball



Our Y3 and 4 children were treated to an interactive Pantomime on Wednesday as they enjoyed a performance of Cinderella from a travelling theatre company.

Bah Humbug!

Y5 and 6 also enjoyed an interactive panto, loosely based around the story of 'Scrooge'.

Our thanks to the SPA for funding these Christmas treats.

Reception Elf School Day

Reception were very excited to attend Alfaskolinn (Elf School) this week. They spent the day in Mrs Claus's kitchen making Christmas tree pizzas and Rudolph cakes, practising their elf-abet and learning to tiptoe through ladders and pack sacks in the elf barn. We also learnt how to say hello in Finnish which is 'Hey-hey!'. The day ended with lots of hot chocolate and candy canes. We are delighted to say that our elves passed their elf school day and were awarded a certificate to say they are now officially one of Santa's Elves. An elf-tastic day!



Carol Service Hits all the Right Notes



Our annual Junior Carol Service at St George's Church was a wonderful way to round off our Christmas celebrations this week. A number of Y6 children tackled the readings with great confidence and there were excellent performances from our orchestra and vocalists. The whole of Y3 and 4 joined together to sing two pieces, which were much enjoyed by everyone. Y5 and 6 also sang beautifully and we were also treated to an item by the Y3 and 4 singers. Our thanks to St George's Church for their warm welcome and to all the families and friends that came to share this special occasion with us.

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