

## Happy Holidays Everyone

Well everyone, we have finally arrived at the end of our first term in our new school building and what an incredible term it has been. It may be a new building but the amazing buzz, warmth, infectious enthusiasm that your children bring to our school, never, ever goes away which is just magical. Can I also on behalf of all the staff here, say a special thank you for the kind cards, words, messages and gifts we have received from many of you. Whilst we don't expect this, it means so much to us all so thank you for that.

## Christmas Productions

Last week was one of the most memorable in our new school and we have set the benchmark incredibly high for the next 60 years of school productions. There were 10 altogether and each one different with a lovely music and crafty afternoon for Nursery right through to drama, Christmas across the world in Years 5 & 6 with a brief stop in Bethlehem for Reception, Year 1 & 2, some festive cheer and magical singing from Year 3 & 4 ( and their families!) and a mince pie problem in Pandora...but all culminating in a magical celebration of the talented children in our school. Thank you for the 1000+ family and friends who supported these, they were incredible.



## Exciting Art Projects – Spring Term

Whilst I am delighted with the new school, I am also very keen to get some exciting and inspiring artwork up around the school. Well in the Spring Term it will be a hive of activity for many children across the school. Firstly, the fantastic Miss Walker from Delamere C.E. Academy will continue to work with our Gifted & Talented children in Key Stage 2 to complete the brilliant work linked to the River Dee that will be displayed in the upstairs corridors.

Year 2 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week back are going to be working with Stephen Rowley an artist who specialises in Aboriginal Art linked to their topic all about Australia. Check out his work on the following website: <http://www.aboriginalworkshops.com>;

Also we have the brilliant local artist Russell Kirk who will be finishing the amazing Roman historic art with Year 6 and installing some Roman standards on our pathways into school and possibly a sunken shipwreck linked to the history of our famous river, late in March. Russell is also coming in at the end of January to work with Years 3 & 4 who are going to design some amazing images of people that Russell will paint all up the corridors and stairs to where Year 3 & 4 come into school. <http://www.russellkirk.co.uk/>

Finally in early February we have the most incredible artist called Ian Cook who designs and makes images through the use of remote control cars and wheels / tyres on cars. We are really lucky to have him in school and he is going to make one huge piece of artwork ( a map of the world) to go near the front of the school which every single child in school will get to play a part in. He will be in school for 4 days and we will be asking all children to bring in a small toy car that they have or a member of their family has as it will be part of the finished art project. Check out his incredible work at <http://www.popbangcolour.com/>. Look in the gallery section and click on films to see how his world map is made, it is incredible. More details to follow soon!

## Inset Day – January 9<sup>th</sup>

Just a quick reminder to all parents and carers that the children do not return to school until **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January** as the Monday is a Training Day for all staff. We are being trained on how to do coding through the use of the school I-Pads so look forward to more lessons about this.

## Attendance & Pupil Progress

During the last 2 weeks of term, we have met with all class teachers to look at children's progress across the term. The one thing that has clearly come out of these meetings is that overall, poor attendance leads to less progress in school. This must improve dramatically in January and will be shared with parents and carers during parents evening. Obviously if your child is ill or unwell they shouldn't be in school but we need to ensure at all other times attendance is positive. I will share some interesting statistics with you in the new year.



## ● ● ● Building & Demolition Update

The week before the children come back, the ground workers will be in to start to level out the area where the old building once stood. They will start to plan out the different sections of this area and slowly it will begin to take shape. You will also see some changes to the temporary staff parking areas too at the back of the old KCC building. I was passed some really exciting information yesterday regarding the current site of our school as it was a training ground for the Army many years ago and I have some brilliant photographs that I am hoping to have displayed in our school at some point in the new year. I will continue to keep you up to date in the new year with any changes to our plans but excitingly this will be our final term of building work!!!!

## School Uniform – Is it Time for a Change? ● ● ●

I have been thinking for a long time now about whether we should look to change our school uniform – don't panic we won't do anything until September and it will only be decided by you and your children, but next term I really want to start to look at some options. My only reason for this is that our red uniform doesn't actually reflect anything in our new school that is red and I wondered whether we should explore some of our historic uniform from the past. I don't want to change the logo as this feels important as it reflects the history of our River Dee that ran along the back of the school many years ago. Anyway I am just getting you all to think about it for now but we will need to make decisions in the new term as I don't want you spending money on this uniform if we decide to change it. Please can I just reiterate, we are not changing it until you have had a say in the ideas we come up with.



## ● ● ● Special Thanks Ben & Leya

I just wanted to say a very special thank you to the families of Ben Courtney-Parry In Neptune and Leya-Rose Jones in Mercury for their incredible generosity. Yesterday all your children, well over 400 of them received a cone with some goodies in them. Well both Ben & Leya's families provided those as a small Christmas gift to all the children. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for such a generous gift that I know all the children will enjoy, and the grown ups if you managed to get a sweet!!



## ...And Finally ● ● ●

There we go everyone, we've made it to the end of the longest term in the year and the first in our new building. I wanted to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a safe and relaxing time. I know that Christmas can be stressful, expensive and also a difficult time for many families. My thoughts are with all of you and I hope that more than anything you find time to spend with your incredible children who inspire, excite and motivate us all on a daily basis...they are very special. For those families that don't celebrate Christmas, thank you for your tolerance and support in the last couple of weeks and I wish you all a special holiday and time to relax with family and friends too.

We look forward to seeing you all back here on the 10<sup>th</sup> January looking fresh faced and relaxed... Mr Williams will be on his annual diet that will start in January and finish some time in January!!!

Have a lovely Christmas everyone and a Happy New Year to you all...see you in 2017...

Kind regards

Dave Williams  
(Headteacher)

