



Newsletter

Margaret McMillan

Primary School

December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the Autumn term draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the wonderful support you have given to your children. We have held a number of parent information mornings this term and will be holding more in the new year. The parents who attended the online safety talk from the PCSO found it extremely useful.

I am sure that you, like me, have thoroughly enjoyed watching the Phase 1 and 2 Nativity Production; Stargazing. The children sang brilliantly and we definitely have some budding actors in our school.

As you know we have changed our homework policy this term to include a wider range of activities. I have been really impressed with the models and projects that the children have brought into school from home.

We have raised money for a number of causes this term. Our Christmas jumper day raised almost £500 for Children in Need and the non-uniform day for Marie Curie Cancer Care raised £635. Thank you so much for your kind generosity.

Mrs Akhtar's family asked me to thank everyone who contributed to the fund raising for the tree and the charity. We held a small tree planting ceremony with her family and the children from her last class. You will have seen the apple tree outside the year 4 classrooms.

A number of our staff are leaving for pastures new. Mr Bagherian and Miss Simms are leaving to work in schools across Bradford and Miss Holbeck is leaving to travel the world. We wish them all the best. Miss Simms has written a farewell note over the page. We have some new staff joining us in January—I will introduce you to them then.

We have much to look forward to next year; we are having a "Take Over Day" and will also be holding our first ever winter fundraising event. We are very excited about it—more details to follow next term.

May I take this opportunity to wish those of you who are celebrating, a Merry Christmas and to wish everyone a happy and peaceful New Year. We re-open on Monday 7th January 2019.

Lorraine Martin
Head teacher

Phase updates

Phase One: Mr Adam Bagherian

The children in Phase 1 have settled in well to their new classes and have had a super term of learning. Many children have received 'Bear Word' certificates and are working hard to practice these daily at home. The children have also taken part in the KS1 nativity and have been learning songs in their classes. During the last two weeks the children have really enjoyed reading the Polar Express as a class and personalising a train carriage ready for our 'Big Build' on Friday. Further to this each class has been enjoying baking Christmas themed biscuits and testing them out!

Thank you to all the parents that have attended 'Stay and Play' sessions every Tuesday morning. The children have thoroughly enjoyed sharing their learning experience with parents. These sessions will continue after the holidays and we look forward to seeing you all there.

Phase Two: Mrs Sarah Hodge

This half term the children in Y1 and Y2 have been doing lots of work on our end of term topic on the Polar Express. The children have been making train carriages, baking biscuits and creating some fantastic pieces of descriptive writing using the book as inspiration. Last week Y2 went on a visit linked to their current theme on the 'Great Fire of London'. The children took part in some really exciting sessions which took them inside the baker which started the fire, met a visitor that had survived the fire and they also took part in some dancing which represented how the fire had spread. It was great to see the children asking some in depth questions and they gained a lot from the experience.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support with the children's new homework projects. We've had some fantastic work back in and it's great to see what the children have been doing outside school to continue their learning.

Year 1 would also like to thank all those parents who have attended their 'Stay and Play' sessions on a Wednesday morning. The pupils really enjoy reading with their parents and showing what they have been learning. These sessions will continue after the Christmas break.

Phase Three: Mrs Sarah Johnson

It's been a busy half term for Phase 3 they have excelled in sports tournaments with a brilliant win at inter school competitions for both athletics and futsal. Well done everyone who attended, again it was noticed how excellent their attitude was towards other competitors.

Y4 went on a trip to Cartwright Hall to learn all about Bradford, they practiced some sketching and map skills and shared some interesting representations of buildings in our local area. Cartwright Hall is a fantastic free museum in Lister Park and definitely worth a visit if you get chance over the holidays.

Last week there was a phase trip to the Alhambra where everyone enjoyed watching Aladdin. There were a number of big stars in the show and the children loved all the booing and cheering. A favourite part was getting to wear the 3D glasses and watching the characters come out of the stage.

We have recently re launched the daily mile run in school and classes have been busy clocking up the miles to compete across the school. Try to keep this up over the holidays. It's amazing how much better you feel after a bit of fresh air!

Phase Four: Mrs Clare Mulholland

This half term Year 5 have been to Leeds Ballet School and The Leeds Grand to watch the Northern Ballet group perform Puss in Boots and The Nutcracker.

The Year 6 children have taken part in a Drugs awareness talk and an E-safety talk run by the local PCSO. During Anti-bullying week, all year groups attended an Extreme bike show which was performed on the school playground. 58 of our year 6 children attended a week-long residential in Howtown, Ullswater where they: climbed mountains; went canoeing; climbed a waterfall (gorge scrambling); and many more adventurous activities. Year 6 were set the task of creating the front of the Polar Express carriage as part of the school theme week. They even managed to incorporate a working light, we have some budding engineers amongst us.

Y5 and Y6 children continue to be motivated and work hard. Keep up the good work!

A farewell from Miss Simms

I wanted to write as it is time for me to move on to new things after a wonderful 13 years of working at Margaret McMillan. Over my time here, I have taught 100s of children including several siblings from the same families and have enjoyed catching up with pupils returning from Secondary school to say hello. The school, children and community have helped shape me into the teacher I am today and I shall always be grateful for this. I wish to extend my thanks and warm wishes to all the supportive and friendly parents (both from this year's class, last year's class and previous classes) that I see daily at my classroom door as well all the amazing children that I have taught. I wish them all well in their future. Miss Simms

Attendance

The whole school attendance for this half term is **95%**. The national expectation is for the attendance to be above **96%**. Please support us in our quest to achieve this.

Diary Dates

7th January 2019	School opens
7th January 2019	E Safety/Online bullying workshops
7th February 2019	Winter fund raiser
14th February 2019	Road Safety Talks
18th February 2019	Half Term
26th February 2019	Y3 Magna Trip
Weds 27th Feb/Thursday 28th Feb 2019	Parents Evening
Thursday 7th March 2019	World Book Day
Monday 11th March 2019	Y2 Mandir visit
Thursday 14th March/15th March 2019	Y4 Nell Bank
Friday 29th March 2019	Take Over Day
Friday 5th April 2019	Showcase of Take Over Day at Lister Mill
Weds 10th/ Thurs 11th April 2019	Parents Evening
Thursday 11th April 2019	Y4 Sikh Visitor in school
Friday 12th April 2019	Easter Holidays

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