

17th December 2021

Dear Parents

We have nearly reached the end of term and are thoroughly enjoying all the Christmas festivities. Last Sunday the third candle of the Advent wreath was lit marking Gaudete Sunday, when we rejoice that Jesus' birth is nearly here! The joy is permeating everything we do at school! Today's party day had a special visitor on the roof (in a red suit) and lots of fun was had during the day. We have also enjoyed marvellous Christmas carol services this week and I'd like to thank Ms Phillips and all the staff for their hard work in putting these together. It was wonderful that the weather was so mild and nobody got too cold outside! I would also like to sincerely thank all the parents who gave so generously in the retiring collections on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Just over £1,000 was raised which will be split evenly between the classes for reading books and classroom resources.

The Reception nativity was gorgeous and we all loved seeing them perform on stage. Hopefully next year, we can have all parents safely in the hall with us again. I hope you enjoy watching the performances on Google Classroom (Yrs 1-6) or Tapestry (Reception).

Christmas Raffle – The raffle took place during our Awards Assembly this morning and there was great excitement over the prizes! A huge thank you to Mrs Gregori who sourced so many of them. The raffle raised just over £1,000!! Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket and the generous parents who donated raffle prizes. I was particularly delighted to win one of them – thank you!!

Christmas Panto – Thanks to The Friends, we have a theatre company coming in to school to do a panto for the children on Monday. We invite all the children to come to school in Christmas themed clothes or their comfortable clothes that they might wear to go to the theatre. There may be prizes for the most Christmassy outfit!

Reading Books – The Friends gave us a donation of £2,000 to spend on reading books for the infants. These have been ordered and a delivery of 750 books was delivered this week! These are from the RWI reading scheme and will support the infant children as they learn to read fluently. A big thank you to The Friends! The next project is to buy more colour-banded books as well as more reading books for the older children.

Magnetic Beads – We have been made aware of the dangers of magnetic beads. As these are something that children may well innocently play with, please be vigilant and click the link for more information:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-57290239>

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/mum-shares-pic-daughter-hospital-23442982>

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. This is my last letter of the term and so I'd like to wish all of you a very happy, peaceful and safe Christmas and all good wishes for the new year – whatever it may bring!

Kind regards
Kate Baptiste
Headteacher