

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 4, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents, thank you for all your support during our recent **FOMS 'Winter Festival.'** I am delighted to announce that the Winter Festival raised more than **£3,500 - the highest amount we have ever raised!!** The money will go towards a number of key areas agreed at the beginning of the school year including:

1. 2x projectors for Y3 and Y4 classroom = £698.00
2. Replace play equipment in playground = £2,000
3. Maths resources = £1,000
4. EYFS (Reception class) resources = £1,000
5. Class Budgets = £400 per class x 7 = £2,800

**Total: £7,498.00**

**A big THANK YOU for supporting recent charity and fund raising events at school:**

**Poppies:** We raised **£213.33**

**Children in Need:** We raised an amazing **£440.67**

**Sporting competitions during Term 1 and Term 2:**

It has been a very busy month for inter-school sports. We attended the Kent County Cross Country Championships, with 14 children from across Key Stage 2 competing against runners from all over Kent at the County Showground, Detling. All the runners performed brilliantly and we achieved some great results in each of the categories. We must give a particular mention to Kyler Barton in Year 4 on his fantastic effort and result. Well done to everyone that took part.

We are very pleased to announce that our school football squad have been successful in **winning the Collaboration Schools Football League.** We have played 6 games during Terms 1 and 2; winning 4, drawing 1 and only losing 1. There have been some terrific matches played at a very high level. We would like to congratulate all the 13 squad members who have played a part in these matches and we are all very proud of our amazing achievement as league winners!

We are looking forward to reporting on the netball squad matches as they will be playing in a similar league competition after Christmas. I would like to thank Mr Mitchell for all his hard work and time given to these events.

**Christmas events and activities:**

Christmas has officially started in school and we have our **Post Box** ready to receive Christmas cards for all children and staff. This is situated in our school office area. Children should deliver their cards to the post box (not hand them out). Deliveries will be made at key times during the week to ensure that we can manage the distribution of cards.

Today the whole school watched a Christmas Panto performance of **Dick Whittington.** The children thoroughly enjoyed this excellent show and have another Panto from **Family Trust** called **The Nativity Inspector**, next Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**Other important dates and information so that you can enjoy, plan ahead and celebrate with us:**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** we have our school **Christmas lunch.** Children are invited to wear a CHRISTMAS JUMPER to school in place of their normal school jumper/cardigan, as we enjoy eating and celebrating Christmas together in the school hall.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December** Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have their Christmas parties in the afternoon and can bring in their party food (on a plate) and their party clothes to wear in the afternoon. Father Christmas will be delivering class presents on this day! Information will be sent home by the class teachers regarding arrangements for this day.

The **Infant Christmas show** is on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** at **2pm** in the school hall.

On **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** at **1.30pm**, the **Junior Carol Service** will take place at Mereworth Church. Children will return to school after the concert for collection at the usual time.

**PARKING for our Christmas events:**

We have made arrangements for **additional parking** to be available at the **Pavilion car park** for parents attending the Infant Christmas show on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. It will be open from 1.30pm. It will also be open for parking on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December from 1.00pm for parents attending the Carol Service at the church. **The Pavilion car park is on the right hand side of 'The Street' coming from Kings Hill and Wateringbury direction, just before Butchers Lane.** Please park here to avoid congestion on The Street. Thank you.

**Please see attached the dates for Term 3 and Term 4.**

We will send home our **Term 3 CLUBS list at the end of this week** so that you can plan ahead for Clubs that you would like your child to attend next term. Please remember that we have fantastic opportunities in place for children to learn a wide range of musical instruments. If you have any questions about this please see the school office or Mrs Jones our Music Leader.

**Our school value for DECEMBER is gratitude.**

This value provides us with an opportunity to discuss being grateful and thankful for what we have (not what we don't have) and to say 'thank you' to others for what they do for us.

**Staffing Information and update:**

Unfortunately Mr Smith our Year 2 Teacher is unable to continue with us due to ill health. From January 2018 we welcome back **Mrs Dickinson** who, together with **Mrs Griffiths**, will be the Year 2 class teachers.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you all over the next few weeks as we begin a very busy schedule of fun and enjoyable Christmas events and activities. Thank you for all your support during this Autumn Term 2017. May I also take this opportunity to thank all the school staff that work tremendously hard to ensure that we deliver the very best provision for all our pupils. I am very fortunate to have such a fantastic team of people that really care about the children and the school. I would also like to thank the school governors who ensure that the school is meeting all the statutory requirements and that we have the appropriate challenge and support to ensure Mereworth provides the very best for the children. **Miss Lavelle – Head Teacher**



Thank you to FOMS for their hard work with the *Winter Festival and Santa's Grotto* – this was a really lovely school event!

The School Council are currently generating ideas for new **'Play equipment'** for our school playground. We will give you more information about this and other projects in January 2018!

**EASY FUNDING:** Please register at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to support the school in raising money every time you shop at a wide variety of stores including AMAZON, JOHN LEWIS, M&S, ARGOS... If you would like more information please visit the FOMS page of the school website.

**Attendance – Every School Day Counts!**

Our whole school attendance at present is **96.8%**. **Please help us to reach our target of 97.5%.** It is essential children are not taken out of school during term time, for holidays or non-urgent appointments. There is a clear statistical link between school attendance and educational attainment, any time absent from school results in lost learning. Your support and commitment to ensuring your child is in school every day makes a big difference to how we can ensure all children make progress.

**After school:** At 3.30pm we would like everyone to leave the school premises and not continue to play and use school equipment. This will alleviate traffic on The Street and also enable our After School Clubs to run effectively and be supervised properly. Thank you.