



1st December 2023

Children in Need- well done everyone, it was great to have fun and raise money for a good cause. Your non-uniform donations raised £153.76 which we have paid to Children in Need.

Our poppy appeal this year was also very successful-we sold out in just a few days. The Royal British Legion will let us know how much we raised.

Our fundraising hampers have been given to the winning families, this raised £386 for the school fund account, we are using this money to buy more toys and equipment for the children to use on the playground at lunchtimes. Aila Marku in 1C won the children's hamper and Vishwak Suravaram in 3A won the adult hamper.

Staffing

You may have noticed some unfamiliar faces lately in school. We have had the highest levels of staff sickness since COVID over the past few weeks. This means we rely on agency staff to teach and provide support to children. Whilst this is not ideal, as the staff don't know your children as well as our regular staff, the Manford staff have ensured that your children are still being taught the curriculum and their needs are being met. I am very relieved that we have not had to send classes home and go back to Google Classroom remote learning-we have been close to doing this over the last couple of weeks.

Childcare

A survey will be coming out to you next week about our childcare offer (after school and breakfast clubs). Since COVID it seems families in our area need less childcare. Our numbers attending the childcare clubs has remained low-we predict that in the current financial year we will make a loss of around £19,000. Obviously, we can't sustain this so we have a number of options:

- Put the prices up
- Stay open until 6pm so that more families can use the childcare after school
- Close the childcare clubs and signpost families to other facilities

I hope that we can continue with the childcare as I know some families rely on it-please respond to the survey next week to help Governors make a decision moving forward.

Parent Survey results

We had a bigger response than in previous years-111 parents. The full results are now available on the school website.

It's coming up to a really busy time in school-please check the dates at the end of this newsletter. We are now planning the after-school clubs for January-look out for letters before the end of term-places are first come first served.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 5th December- meeting for Year 5 parents to find out about the residential 3.15pm (to include fundraising)

Friday 8th December- Second date for flu vaccinations

Monday 11th December-Tours for prospective Reception families 9.30am and 2pm

Wednesday 13th December-School Christmas Dinner, Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 14th December- Year 2 Christmas performance (young children welcome) 2pm

Friday 15th December- Year 2 Nativity (no young children) 9.15am doors open

Tuesday 19th December- Performing Arts Group performance (to be confirmed)

Wednesday 20th December- Staff Panto

Wednesday 20st December- **School Closes 2pm**

Thursday 4th January-School re-opens

Monday 8th January-Year 4 start swimming

w/c 8th January- after school activity clubs begin (10 weeks)