

MAY THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR BRING
YOU ALL EVERY BLESSING AND HAPPINESS



I am confident all parents will agree as the first term of the academic year draws to a close that all the school staff can look forward to a well earned Christmas break. We would likewise reciprocate these sentiments to you all not least in recognition of your tremendous support for the school in what has been an even busier Autumn Term than usual. As this Newsletter is compiled in the final week of term we have an external assessor in school undertaking an assessment (very paperwork based) for the award of the NAACE (National Association of Advisors for Computers in Education) mark, the new nationally recognised award for high standards in ICT in schools. If successful we will be among one of the first schools in the country to be so accredited and I would record my thanks to the staff and Mrs Cefai in particular for the many hours spent collating the evidence for our submission. We will await the outcome. This ongoing drive for improvement was recognised during our recent Ofsted inspection and reflects the many demands faced by the whole staff team. I would extend my personal thanks to them all in whatever capacity they serve the school for their very valued contributions to the life of our school. This extends to our school Governors, Friends Association and you, the parents. Thank you to all.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Infant Concert - these performances went marvellously and I would thank you for your support for the charity collection for one of our families. The £500 raised will lend considerable support to the family concerned and again marks your generosity. Well done to our Key Stage 1 children for entertaining us so expertly and managing two late nights. I am sure Father Christmas will reward them!

Nursery Concert - likewise the am and pm Nursery children came together to put on a good show which their audience appeared to enjoy greatly from the reports I received. Well done to all.

Junior Carol Service - St Andrew's welcomed us and an excellent programme was provided to a packed congregation. The children and staff performed with aplomb. I would acknowledge that attention is needed to some of the organisational aspects of the programme and this will be addressed in the future.

I would like to record my thanks to the school choir for all their work over the term and to the group of 19 children from the choir who sang during a recent lunchtime at Mayday Hospital. I would also like to thank Mrs Bell and Mrs Speight for their work with the choir.

The term has clearly provided a good Advent spirit and I am confident we enter the Christmas break having prepared well for the true meaning of Christmas.

Bullying Policy Working Party

Please find attached to this Newsletter an update note from this Working Party.

Friends Association Craft Fair

The Committee have asked me to extend their thanks to everyone for the great support that was received for this year's Craft Fair, the profits from which have exceeded £3,000. This is the best Craft Fair result ever.

Funerals

As you may be aware the funeral Mass of Lucia and Rosa's father will take place at St Andrew's Church on Tuesday 23rd December at 10 am. The parents of the children's classes (2.2 and 3.2) would like to help to organise the reception after the funeral service. A meeting has been set up for tomorrow morning, Friday 19th December, in the Music Room at 9.30 am for any parents who may be willing to help. If you are able to help either organising, providing food or a donation towards the purchase of food this would be appreciated. If you cannot make the meeting but would like to help please call Leah Mascarenhas on 8764 8819 or Linda Leggett on 8765

0130. All are invited to the service and reception afterwards in the school hall.

Sadly another child has experienced bereavement and the funeral service for Billie-Marie's mother will take place at St Bartholomew's Church, Norbury, at 1.30 pm on Tuesday 23rd December and again all are invited to attend the service.

Thank you on behalf of all staff for the numerous gifts and cards received. These are much appreciated and if personal thanks have not been received please accept this general note of sincere appreciation. Have a very enjoyable Christmas and from all at St James the Great every good wish for 2004.

