

12<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians

As the term draws to a close I would like to thank all of you who make the Preparatory Department so special. The children have all made fantastic starts to their new year groups and continue to make progress. The most pleasing thing for me continues to be watching children of all ages mix and play with each other at break times and to be so happy in each other's company. I would also like to thank you, the parents; we ask a lot of you in terms of organisation, charity requests, late pick-ups from fixtures and attendance at concerts, fixtures and other events. I would also like to thank my staff; they continue to work tirelessly in their planning and delivery of academic lessons as well as all the 'extras' outside of the classroom. You should all be receiving a full academic report for your child in the next couple of days and again thanks to the staff who put in many hours writing these reports; I have had the utmost pleasure in reading through well over 1,000 reports in the last week or so!

Two Fridays ago the girls played Norwich High for Girls in hockey fixtures and we returned having won two and lost one; the most pleasing thing for me was watching the Under 11A team in their 4-1 victory having played some excellent hockey.

There were no fixtures last week but we were still very busy; we had children take ABRSM music exams last Monday and LAMDA drama exams last Tuesday. Early indications are that they all performed very well and I look forward to their results in the New Year.

Last Wednesday the Year 6 pupils enjoyed a day at 'Mr Garret's Workhouse' on a Victorian experience day at The Long Shop Museum in Leiston; they returned home with smiles on their faces having learnt and experienced a lot about this time period.

On Thursday I was very proud to take the Year 6 carol singing at Broadland's Care Home in Oulton Broad. This is the fourth year that we have visited the home to spread some Christmas cheer and I must say it was the most amazing visit. The children sang their hearts out for over an hour and the residents even joined in too! The most heartening experience was when the children shared cups of tea, squash and biscuits over casual conversation; amongst many others they met Nellie who was nearly 101 years old, Roy who told the boys about his evacuee days and then played his harmonica for them and Betty who was an ex-teacher in and around the Lowestoft area. The children were fantastic ambassadors for the school and I would like to publicly praise them for their behaviour.

Last Friday I was delighted to award Bronze awards to Ben Every and Charlotte Rainer (Year 4), Emily Phelps, Matilda Williams, Rory Hunt, Esmée Shaw-Clutton and Edward Wilson (all Year 5) and Ryan Kennedy, Ava Lines, Daniel Franco-Key, George Goodby, Mustafa Jaohar and Keanan Cross (all Year 6). I also awarded Silver Certificates to Jude Groom, Beatrice Cross, Nicole Grimsey and Megan Fisher (all Year 3). We were also treated to some Christmas carols from our mini orchestra of Emily Oldman, Ava Lines and Theo Meldum - well done and thank you to these children.

The children also enjoyed the West Midland's Children's Theatre performance of 'Wizard William' on Friday morning; our thanks to the PTA for once again funding this treat for the children. Many were invited up on stage to perform and they all seemed to enjoy themselves.

The children all loved their 'Santa Run' yesterday with Miss Wong, ably assisted by Mr Grimmer, Mrs Nunn, Mrs Stephens and Courtney our Gap Student on Monday. They played games, danced and sang their way round the course before meeting Father Christmas towards the end. I do hope that their clothes weren't too muddy!

The children have been rehearsing hard for tomorrow's Carol Service and I do hope you can join us to celebrate the end of term at 11am in St Edmund's Church, Southwold. Children should be collected from their pews at the end of the service and should say goodbye to their form tutors. Please remember that there is limited heating in the Church **so please wrap up warm.**

I look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mr Tim O'Connell  
Head of Preparatory Department