

## Ingleby Mill Newsletter December 2017



*As we come to the end of a very long and very busy term, I would like to take the opportunity to wish the Ingleby Mill whole school community a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year.*

★ Well done and thank you to children and staff across school who have arranged and performed in so many different Christmas activities during the last couple of weeks.

The Christmas trees in the hall and entrance way look wonderful with Christmas decorations made by every child in school on the theme of 'Sparkle and Shine'. We will be very carefully dismantling everything on Friday so your child should bring home their decoration to hang on the family tree.

The angels, kings, elves, reindeer, Santa Clauses (and many more) in nursery and reception presented their Christmas singalong to parents and extended family. Their singing was an absolute delight and I particularly loved the parade at the end.

We all very much enjoyed the Christingle Service, led by children in year 2 and year 5 who sang beautifully and spoke so well about the origins of the Christingle and what Christmas means to them. Thank you to Reverend Charlton who spoke during the service and to his wife, Mrs Catherine Charlton who played the piano for our singing.

Our year 1 nativity performance had a modern twist this year with characters from the story telling their side of it through a series of pop songs. I commented at the end of both performances about how impressed I was by the children's ability to learn so many words – a fantastic effort.

A huge well done has to go to year 2 who took part in 'Snappy Christmas', a Stockton schools singing-together event at Thornaby Pavilion. Our children were the youngest there, yet they completely held their own; learning and singing some challenging Christmas music. It has been lovely to receive feedback from parents and friends who attended to say how much they enjoyed the show.

On Thursday last week we had our Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day. Well done to our cook and kitchen staff who cooked up a delicious Christmas dinner.

It was lovely to see so many parents and extended family joining years 3 and 4 for our Christmas Craft afternoons. I hope you enjoyed working alongside your children. I know the children enjoyed it very much. A big

thank you to the staff in years 3 and 4 who organised a special 'Sparkle and Shine' Christmas disco this year.

Our Year 6 children performed a beautiful singalong this week with instrumental support. Wonderful!

The annual Christmas Chocolate raffle was a success, raising £560. Well done to our lucky winners.

I would also like to mention some of the amazing charity fundraising that has happened recently, much of it organised by our children. Thank you to parents and children who supported our Children in Need activities raising £1458.50.

Sofia and Kasey in year 6 organised our Christmas story-writing competition which raised £55.00 for the British Heart Foundation – which means that 110 children entered the competition. Well done to everyone for taking part and in particular to our winning story writers. I have taken copies of all story entries and will make up a book for the school library.

Seb (Y5) and his sister Libby (Y3) sent me a heart-felt email about a local charity 'Hugs for Homeless' asking if we could collect hats, gloves, scarves and biscuits to support the work they do for homeless people in the area. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this good cause.

And last but not least, I have to say a huge well done to Oliver (Y4) who came to tell me all about his own charity fundraising in November when he swam 5km in total across the month and raised over £2000 for Lung Cancer Research. It is heart-warming at this time of year to know that we have so many children who want to take action to support the needs of others.

### **Some Goodbyes:**

We wish Mrs Whitney a special goodbye as she leaves us to start her retirement after 18 Years at Ingleby Mill. She has made a significant contribution to the education of many many children and will be missed by staff and children alike. We also wish all the very best to our two apprentice teaching assistants, Miss Ward and Miss Rucroft who have completed their training with us and move on to pastures new.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE – we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

