



# Birkwood Primary School

www.birkwood.org.uk

Newsletter 14: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Dear Parents and Carers, \_

**Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year**

I would like to thank all parents and friends who have supported events this term in school, such as: Assemblies, Children in Need, Ballroom dancing, Young Voices, Grimethorpe Colliery Band Event, Sporting events, the Christmas Fair, Key Stage 1 and Foundation concerts and the Church service. We really appreciate all the support that you give to our school.

## **The Christmas Fair raised the amazing amount of £1,211.52!!**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Fair and made it such a great success, especially Mr and Mrs White and all the Friends of Birkwood.

### **Winners:**

- Raffle prizes ~ please see Mrs Gough or Mrs Ellis in the School Office for winning numbers
- Most raffle tickets sold ~ Year 6 (they enjoyed their fun afternoon on Tuesday!)
- Christmas cake made by Mrs Tracey White ~ Mrs Linda Taylor
- Christmas cake made by Mrs Janet Robinson (Governor) ~ Mrs Julie Berry

**Ballroom Dancing at Barnsley Metrodome on Wednesday evening** ~ We were all so very proud of the children 178 tickets were sold by Birkwood alone to support this special event. This was the first appearance for many of the children and they danced with flair and with confidence. Thank you to Mrs Porter for all her hard work preparing the children and to all the staff and families who attended. Really well done to all of the children.

**Christmas Soiree** on Thursday was another wonderful evening; it included a showcase by our ballroom dancers, a performance of 'Scrooge' by our Drama Group and a selection of songs from the Young Voices Concert by the choir. Tickets were sold out well in advance, thank you again for your support and to all the staff who have worked with the children, particularly Mrs Porter, Mrs Sutton and Mrs Robinson.

**Christmas Carol Service** at St. John's today ~ I am writing this Newsletter earlier in the week and hope that the weather stays fine so that we can walk up safely. I feel confident that the children will read and sing beautifully and remind us of what Christmas is about.

**Christmas parties** ~ the children really enjoyed themselves, they always look so different and grown up in their party clothes! Thank you very much for party food donations. All children in school have received a Christmas present of a book.

**Foundation Stage Christmas celebrations** ~ were very well supported by parents; the children were delightful and also very entertaining! It's always special seeing our youngest children sharing their Christmas songs and the nativity story, you all clearly enjoyed it and thank you for coming!. Well done to the children, and thank you to all our Foundation Stage staff.

**Next Year:**

**Year 1 Leopards** ~ Miss Horne will teach Year 1 Leopards whilst Mrs Cattell is off poorly.

**Year 2** ~ Mrs Exley will return to teaching Year 2.

**Year 5** ~ Miss Helen Paczkowski will teach Year 5 for the Spring Term until Miss Edwards starts with us after Easter.

**Kingswood Residential Visit September 2012**

To date we have only received 10 deposits for Kingswood Sep '12. As this is such an expensive time of year, we are willing to extend the deadline to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January. However, if we have not received enough deposits by this date, the trip will unfortunately have to be cancelled as it will not be financially viable. Thank you.

**Literacy Workshop in the New Year** ~ we would like to invite parents of our Foundation Stage 2 Sunflowers to join some of our staff in the meeting room at Buttercup Children's Centre if you wish to learn more about Reading and Writing ~ how it's taught in school and how you could support your child at home. Please see Mrs Lawson or Miss Marson if you would like more details.

**Tuesday afternoons 2.30 - 3.15pm starting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

**First Aid training for children** ~ Mrs Hodgkins will be running a First Aid course for the children in Year 5 on Monday and Tuesday mornings in the New Year from 8.20am until school starts. For further details please see separate letter in the New Year.

Finally, I have really appreciated all the support I have received from parents, friends, families, Governors and all of our wonderful staff throughout this year. Thanks to you, Birkwood continues to go from strength to strength!

Thank you also for your Christmas cards, gifts and wishes. I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas with your friends and families, and all the very best for the coming New Year.



***A reminder that School reopens on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012***

**INSET DAYS FOR NEXT YEAR: 31<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012**

With thanks and best wishes,  
Mrs Julie Allen  
Headteacher