

11th December 2009

Dear Parents

Please find enclosed your child's end of term report and a copy of the latest Newsletter. If you have any queries regarding the report please contact individual staff as appropriate. Contact is best made through email (eg jhicks@westbourneschool.co.uk).

Please also find enclosed a travel survey, which the school has an obligation to complete and return to SCC. The data received will be used to compile the School Travel Plan. Please could I ask you to complete it and return it to form tutors at the start of next term.

We have had a fantastic term and have much to celebrate; some notable achievements are listed below:

Our **musicians** have played in many forums over the last few days, which include: Whirlow Farm, Carols by Candlelight, JS & SS Carol services; Tapton Court Nursing Home; Dell Side Senior Citizens' residences; Sainsburys; HSBC bank; Whirlow Hall and the Friends of Westbourne Christmas Fair. Our Junior School MAPs (More Able Pupils) music is also going well: 3 pupils sat the grade 2 theory exam, 2 pupils sat the grade 3 theory exam and next term 4 children are preparing for their grade 1 theory. Also next term 5 children will attend SISTO orchestra (Sheffield).

The Christmas concerts at St Mark's and St John's were fabulous events and we now look forward to our whole school celebration of 125 years history of the school in the City's Cathedral on 21st May 2010. All these events are compulsory for pupils and we hope to see many parents there as well. My special thanks go to all the music staff and the peripatetic teachers for providing such a rich environment for pupils to learn and perform music, and many congratulations to the pupils who performed so well at these (and many other) functions.

We were also entertained during one of several brilliant lunchtime informal concerts by Kevin and Chris Walker. These were great opportunities for the children to see professionals perform using a range of instruments.

Our MAPs musical trip to London next March promises to be very exciting. It includes 27 pupils from Year 4 – Year 11 and involves excursions to the Royal Albert Hall, London School of Music and a show in the West End to mention but a few.

Next term we have 115 **sports fixtures** against other schools. Also in January we will be introducing the Sports Leader's Award for the Year 10s and the Junior Sports Leader's Award for the Year 6s.

Congratulations to the following teams:

'Johnson' - for winning the house swimming gala. Abby Newton was our outstanding performer.

Boys' Rugby: The U13 and U11 boys were both runners up in the recent Westbourne Rugby 7s Tournament.

Girls' Hockey: This was the first year we had hosted an U13 Hockey Tournament, which Westbourne won! A total of 6 other schools attended, with our U11 girls' hockey team finishing runners up.

Well done to the **U11 girls' hockey** team for getting to the National finals and to all those parents who have supported teams during this wet and windy autumn term.

All pupils from Year 3 to Year 8 have had the opportunity to play in a competitive match at hockey and rugby this term. This speaks volumes for the inclusivity of our sports department. Also, many thanks to all the staff and pupils who made the recent trip to Malta so successful.

Scuba diving recommences next term. If your child is in Year 5 – 8 and wants to have a go, or embark on the full PADI license, please call the school office as soon as possible.

Senior School Staff have been involved in inset training with our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is supported by Oslo University. One of its functions is that it enables homework to be set and completed online. All **homework schedules** can be found in your child's homework diary or on our web site.

The **Readathon** was a great success; Oliver Hunt & Zoe Stone raised £80 and Dan Jackson raised £130. We have collected over £500 so far and still more to come. What a magnificent effort! All the money raised by Readathon is shared equally between two charities, the Roald Dahl Foundation and CLIC Sargent. Between them, they spend the money primarily caring for children and young people in the UK suffering from cancer, Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia, epilepsy, blood disorders or acquired brain injury.

The Readathon also coincided with the purchase of our **new Library system** which can be accessed by pupils whilst online and in the comfort of your own home. Children can check reviews written by other pupils and thus reserve their favourite books. The new Library has been recently upgraded with the help of funds raised by FOW.

Other charity events this term have included: Donations to Mrs Whitmore's 'school in India' (any stationery/clothes/cash for food will still be gratefully received) and Breast Cancer (£254 collected at the Senior School carol service).

The FOW **Christmas Fair** was a great success and, along with the previous day's activities, we managed to raise £1600 for the 'Children in Need' charity. Many thanks to everyone who contributed, particularly to the children, as it is they who make these events so special. The photo below highlights the efforts of some; these 4 boys walked to school - arriving at 3.40pm having set off at 9.00am. Can you guess who they are?



Stars in Junior School

This term's gold certificates (over 100 stars) have gone to: Sophie Brotherston, Catherine Miller, Lucy da Costa, Joseph Peckett, Oliver Flint and Libby Woodhouse.

Credits in Senior School:

Omar Sharif won a £25 voucher for collecting the most credits (29); other trail blazers were Matt Grundy (25), Zac Evans (22), Tommie Hassall (22) and Peter Sykes (22). Prize winners in the end of term raffle (where credits are translated into raffle tickets) will be announced next term.

Exam Officer: Well done to Mrs J Briddock who was congratulated by the Joint Council for Qualifications on our excellent administration of exams.

Thank you from all the pupils & staff to **Mr Bohan**, for covering for Mrs Wells whilst on maternity leave.

There will probably be an **Independent Schools' Inspectorate inspection next term**. One of the areas they will look at is our Charitable status. To satisfy our Charitable status, we are obliged to offer a select few bursaries (per year). If you know of a family or have a friend that you think would benefit from all that Westbourne has to offer (but due to financial restraints is unable to pursue this as an option) please ask them to contact me.

Important Dates for your diary

Year 6 scholarship examinations for entry into Senior School in Year 7 will take place on Wednesday 27th January 2010 at 9.00am. The last date for submission of an entry form is Friday 15th January 2010.

All parents' meetings next term are listed on the calendar, a copy of which will be available to download from our web site. Printed copies will be distributed at the beginning of January 2010.

Each year, when the **FOW** class reps update their **contact lists**, they approach the parents, ie send out the old list and ask parents to amend or update as appropriate. In Reception each new parent is told about the list and its use, before FOW collect information. The information is not gathered from the school office. Because of the sensitive nature, FOW always ask the parents directly. We normally ask that parents allow FOW to share details but please let them know if you prefer not to be included. Sharing of this data obviously helps with organising social events for the children. It normally contains the home number & a mobile number; it should not contain any emergency numbers.

All pupils start back on **Tuesday, 5th January 2010**.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John B. Hicks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'H'.