

Head's Message

Dear Parents, Carers,

As we draw towards the end of what has been a very busy and successful term, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on some of the different events and activities that have taken place in school over the past week or so.

I would like to start by congratulating all the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, for working so hard to deliver their wonderful Nativity performances. I felt that all year groups retold the Christmas story superbly and with a real sense of purpose and enjoyment. The children spoke their words very eloquently and sang beautifully, very well done indeed. My thanks also goes to all the staff who supported the children across the four different performances. As I mentioned after each showing, it was lovely to see so many parents and family members in the audience.

On Thursday last week, we held our very own in school General Election, which the children seemed to really enjoy and fully engage with. Prior to the election taking place, a number of lessons were centered around the topic and there was also a whole school assembly based on the meaning of democracy. When the votes had been counted and verified, we then conducted a mathematical analysis of them by class/whole school and shared the findings with the school on Monday, during the whole school assembly. It was very evident how much information and knowledge the children across school had taken on board and some of the questions they asked the staff were extremely insightful and intelligent. Thank you to Miss Honeyman-Smith for organising this event.

The following day, we held our annual Christmas Jumper Day and the children arrived at school looking resplendent in their Christmas themed attire! In the afternoon, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed their Christmas Parties and much fun was clearly had by all! The standard of dancing on display from both the children and staff in the school hall was something to behold! We definitely have a few candidates for the next Strictly Come Dancing competition - 2020!

The Larks Hill School Choir sang brilliantly at the 'Five Towns Church' Christmas Fair on Saturday morning, which was held at Pontefract New College. Well done to all the children who represented the school at this event, your singing was brilliant and helped to add to what was a lovely atmosphere. On a similar note, my thanks goes to Mrs Moss, Mrs Walton and Mrs Fryer for the time they have invested preparing the children for this.

We were so very lucky to receive a special visit from Father Christmas (aka Santa Claus) on Tuesday this week. Santa very kindly paused his final preparations for Christmas in order to spend a couple of hours with the children and staff. Santa read a different story to each class and then handed presents to all the children. Santa was very impressed with how well the children behaved, how smart they all were and also the questions they asked about the different books he read to them. Well done boys and girls, he may visit us again next year if we are good and continue to give our best!

On Wednesday evening, we held our Annual Open Air (very cold air) Carol Service at Larks Hill School. Once again, this proved to be a very enjoyable evening and a good number of children and parents were in attendance. My thanks goes to Mrs Newman for planning and organising this and to all the staff who were able to support this date in the diary.

Yesterday, was the Larks Hill School Christmas Fair and all the children worked so hard to design and deliver such an array of different table top games and activities around school. As ever, it was great to welcome so many parents and family members to the Fair, which was clearly enjoyed by all!

During the morning session yesterday, each class in school took part in the 'Inter House General Knowledge Quiz' and as I write the results are still being tallied! We will announce the result of this competition at the earliest possible opportunity.

This afternoon we will be holding our Final Assembly at 2:30pm, which will provide an opportunity for the staff to congratulate and celebrate all the children's hard work and efforts this term across all aspects of their learning, both inside and outside the classroom.

That just leaves me, on behalf of all the staff at Larks Hill, to thank all the parents and families for their continued support of all we are striving to achieve at Larks Hill School.

May we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr Shuttleworth

