



MILE POST



Seasons Greetings



Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of all staff at Robert Miles Junior School I would like to wish you many seasons greetings and I hope you have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year, whatever you are doing. This has been a very busy but very enjoyable half term, particularly in the last couple of weeks when we have seen so many talented and confident children performing in the different productions.

Our Christmas events always begin with the Christmas Fair and what a successful one we had this year! Thanks to the invaluable help from many parents, both in the organisation and running of the event, we raised just over **£1200** for the school fund. I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs White and Mrs Kieran who were busy planning the event back in September and all the parents who helped out on the day to make the fair such a success.

While I am on the subject of thanks, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers who support us in so many ways in school. We cannot do what we want to do without your support in its many different forms – walking to swimming, hearing readers, making costumes, helping in the library – the list is endless! We very much appreciate your support. Even if you are a working parent who finds it difficult to help out during the day I want you to know just how much we value the support you give your children at home – talking about their work, being interested in what is going on at school, hearing them read, learning times tables and so much more. We have to work in partnership with

you to get the best outcomes for your children and it is worth recognising at this festive time of year the wonderful support we get. Thank you!

Christmas is always an exciting time to be in school. The children's excitement can be infectious and it is a real pleasure to be part of this. An important part of the school calendar is the build up to our Christmas shows and this year was no exception. It has been great to see so many children performing in the various shows over the last couple of weeks and it never ceases to amaze me what children are capable of doing. In many ways what children achieve is limited to what we expect of them – every year we seem to expect more and every year the children rise to it.

This year's whole school show, Dragon Days, was a huge amount of fun to rehearse and perform and judging from the audience reaction the children managed to entertain many people. The professionalism of the children was wonderful to see – the phrase '*the show must go on*' was certainly tested this year! I really do have to say that it was a real pleasure to work with both the year 6 cast and the fantastic choir in preparation for the show – they were an absolute joy to direct and organise! Their enthusiasm was infectious and we really did have a whole lot of fun as well as all the hard work. As for the singing, well I thought the choir were absolutely brilliant and the way they kept up their concentration and enthusiasm until the very last song on the last night was great to see.

It is the combination of work and fun that make these sorts of shows so important to the pattern of a school year. We do these shows to entertain

parents and families and we do these shows to let the children showcase their (many) talents but they are also hugely important ways to learn outside the normal curriculum. Children learn the importance of such things as discipline, the importance of teamwork and how sometimes others rely on you; they learn to concentrate, to listen, to keep going when the going is tough; they see how effort brings improvement; they do new things that surprise themselves; and, above all, I think they learn the rewards of hard work.

There was plenty of hard work on show at the Yr 3 Nativity on Monday. I imagine the parents and carers of the year 3 children who performed were very proud indeed – the Yr 3 team certainly were. It is easy to forget when you see children speaking and singing with such confidence in such a large place that they are only 7 or 8! It is always a very special afternoon and this year was no exception – I thought they too were brilliant.

We can only do all this because of the wonderful staff team we are very fortunate to have here at RMJS. I can only admire their enthusiasm, creativity, dedication and talents and each one of them plays a part in creating the environment we have here that enables children to succeed as they do.

Finally, once again I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to working in continued partnership in 2018.

R. A Gilbey
Headteacher



The cast of this year's show

There are some great photos on the website taken during our dress rehearsal of Dragon Days, we hope you enjoy them. The show was filmed on the Thursday evening and will be ready to purchase soon after Christmas. There is a little taste on the website!

News & Information

A reminder that school begins in the New Year for pupils on **Monday 8th January**. There will be no Weekly Post this week as there is little starting in the first week back. There will be **no film club or after school clubs** apart from Archery which begins on the 11th and no guitar lessons on the first Tuesday. Other musical instrument lessons will continue as normal. A quiet week to get back into work mode! Year 4 and 6 will, however, continue swimming on the first Thursday, the 11th. Film Club will begin again on Monday 15th January and a list of next term's clubs will be sent out during the first week back.

Farewells

We will be sad to say goodbye to some members of staff this term.

Mr James has been with us as a PE coach since last September and is taking the opportunity while he is still young to set off travelling around the world. We wish him all the best in his travels

and only ask that he sends us some photographs, even if they will make us jealous! Thank you for all your work Mr James.

We would also like to thank Mrs Sykes-Ellis for her work as a midday supervisor since June 2016. Mrs Sykes-Ellis is leaving us to concentrate on her job with Kool Kids so we will keep in regular contact with her. We will miss you! Finally we will say goodbye to Miss Malia from our Midday Team. Miss Malia has worked for us since October but sadly cannot continue after Christmas.

Welcome

I would like to welcome Mr Maylard-Mason to the staff of the school from January – he will be replacing Mr James as our PE coach. I know that Mr Maylard-Mason will fit very well into our staff team as he has already coached both groups and whole classes here over the last few years. There may be some slight changes in PE days after Christmas, we will let you know when the timetable has been finalised.

Diary Dates

Friday 22nd December: Last day of term

SPRING TERM

Monday 8th January: First day of term

Friday 26th January: Young Voices Concert

Monday 19th – Friday 23rd

February: Half term holiday

Tuesday 27th – Thursday 29th

March: Year 5 Ilam Residential trip

Thursday 29th March: Last day of term

SUMMER TERM

Monday 16th April: First day of term

Monday 7th May: School closed for bank holiday

Monday 14th – Thursday 17th

May: Year 6 SATs week

Monday 28th May – Friday 1st

June: Half term holiday

Friday 20th July: End of school year

