



# 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. I would also like to thank you for your support over the past term. We cannot do what we want to do in school without your support and I know that this comes in many different forms. Your support backing up what we are doing in school, talking to the children about what they are doing, reading and practising times tables; all of this is invaluable in helping your children's learning. Finally, many thanks must go to all those parents who help out in myriad way in school - walking to swimming, hearing readers, helping at events and on trips - we really appreciate the time you give up.

It has been a very busy last couple of weeks with all the different Christmas events and I am sure your child(ren) will enjoy their well earned rest once the excitement of the big day dies down!

Over 140 children were involved in our big Christmas show - Rock Bottom - this year and what entertainment they provided for the three packed audiences! I know it is tiring for children performing for three nights but it is worth it to ensure so many relatives get the chance to see the children perform. As I always say - they will forget being tired but they will not forget being part of a show like that! The year 6 actors were a real pleasure to work with. I am not sure we have had such a 'dramatic' year 6 before and their enjoyment and levels of participation were wonderful to see. I can't help feeling we got the

chance to see some stars of the future on stage at RMJS... As for the choir, well I thought the singing was absolutely fantastic and again it was a pleasure to see so many children participate with such enjoyment.

We also had a real treat at St Mary's Church on Monday afternoon when the Yr 3 children performed the traditional Nativity. I imagine the parents and carers of the 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.

Developing children's confidence in their own abilities is a key part of what we do and this is one of the many benefits they get from performing in front of others. As well as the simple enjoyment of being part of something great, the children gain in so many different ways - self discipline, teamwork, working towards a common goal, the benefits of hard work, concentration, listening, acceptance of others, perseverance... the list is endless and I view these shows and performances at Christmas as important parts of our whole school life. And they are great fun!

Amidst all these rehearsals and preparations many children have also enjoyed visits out to enhance their learning - to the Harry Potter Studios, Brackenhurst Environmental Centre and Eden Camp. Busy times indeed!

Which brings us to the present and our Christmas Fair. Thanks to all parents/carers for your donations

and help on the day. The office staff are busy counting up our takings and I will let you know how much the Fair raised after Christmas. I would like to say a special thank you to ex-parents Mrs White and Mrs Kieran who were busy planning the event back in September. The money raised will benefit all children in school and is used to enhance learning in many different areas that are not covered by our school budget.

We can only do all this because of the wonderful staff team we are very fortunate to have here at RMJS. I 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. I hope the way we work together pursuing a common goal - giving your children the best educational experience we are able - serves as an example to children as to what effective team work looks like.

Finally, once again I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to working in continued partnership in 2019.

R. A Gilbey  
Headteacher





*The cast of this year's show – Rock Bottom!*

## News & Information

A reminder that school begins in the New Year for pupils on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 on the first Monday** and letters will have gone out for any sporting clubs for that week. A quiet week to get back into work mode! Year 4 and 6 will, however, continue swimming on the first Thursday, the 10<sup>th</sup>. Film Club will begin again on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January and a list of next term's clubs will be sent out during the first week back.

## Fundraising Purchase

I am really pleased to be able to inform you that we have had a large 'Outdoor Classroom' installed that was purchased from the money raised on our Sponsored Walk for Alex back in the summer term. It looks fantastic and is situated just off the bottom playground. We will be installing a paved path to it so it can be used every playtime as well as in lesson times. The Year 6 children are currently thinking of names. Once the name has been decided on we will have a sign made to go above the entrance. Year 6 are also working with Alex's mum to paint some a stone each that we will set into the building. This will be a long-lasting tribute to our friend Alex who I know is still often in our thoughts, and in the thoughts of his classmates.



## Diary Dates

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December:** Last day of term

### SPRING TERM

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January:** First day of term

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January:** Young Voices Concert

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February:** INSET Day

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February:** Half term holiday

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March:** Spring disco 6.30pm

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April:** Year 3 Trip to Lincoln

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April:** Year 5 Ilam Residential trip

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April:** Last day of term

### SUMMER TERM

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April:** First day of term

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May:** School closed for bank holiday

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May:** Year 6 SATs week

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May:** Half term holiday

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July:** End of school year

