

IN THIS ISSUE

- Mr Steggall's Message
- Birmingham Crisis Centre
- Music Fees
- Diary Dates
- Childcare vouchers
- Reminders
- Children in Need
- Cyber-bullying / Fortnite
- Sports Round Up
- Year 5 event

Mr Steggall's Message

There are lots of fabulous things happening at school in the run up to the Christmas period. The children are busy preparing for lots of singing and performing. Our youngest children staged a lovely performance for their families this week and we are looking forward to our choir singing at Lichfield Cathedral tonight (Wednesday). Last week we had another memorable evening at St James' Church. Thank you all for your continued support.



Several parents have commented upon the cost implications for families at this time of year. We are trying to balance providing wide opportunities for the children whilst ensuring that the school's budget isn't negatively affected. There are a variety of strategies being used by schools in order to address dropping budgets and we are always keen to listen to potential solutions. Presently, aspects of school where there is a loss include visits, swimming, visiting performers/providers and extended residential. In the new year, if anyone is interested in providing sponsorship for any events or developments we would be very keen to hear from you.

For families who are going through a time of financial hardship there is access to the Pupil Premium. We have included a link on our website if you are interested. Pupil Premium funding can be used to help support residential, school clubs and music education for example.

From January, we have a temporary vacancy for a receptionist in school. The full job description can be found on our website (please follow the link below). The job is for 2.5 days per week from 8:30am to 3:30pm for one term, up to the Easter holidays. If you are interested in learning more about the role or would like to apply, please can you call into school before **Tuesday 19th December**. [Job Description](#)

Finally, we say a goodbye to Mrs Michel at the end of term and we all wish her well for the future. Mrs Michel has worked in the school office for 25 years. During this time she has also served as a school governor. She will be greatly missed.

I hope that I will see many of you during the celebrations in school and I wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas. School re-opens for children on Tuesday 8th January.

December

Key Dates

- 12th—Cluster Concert at Lichfield Cathedral 7:15pm
- 13th—**Years 1 & 2** Christmas Performance—2pm
- 14th—**Years 1 & 2** Christmas Performance—9:15am
- 17th—**Years 3 & 4** Christmas Performance—2:00pm
- 18th—**Years 3 & 4** Christmas Performance—9:15am
- 18th—Key Stage 1 Christmas Party Afternoon
- 19th—Ducklings Nativity Play
- 19th—School Christmas Lunch
- 20th—Key Stage 2 Christmas Party Afternoon
- 21st—Christmas Jumper Day
- 21st—Last day of term

Please note that the Christmas performances on the 17th/18th are for Years 3 and 4 only.

January

January 7th 2019 is an inset day.
School re-opens on Tuesday 8th January 2019.

Our first week back is our Whole School Book Week which will be officially launched in assembly on Tuesday 8th January.

Birmingham Crisis Centre



Thank you very much for all the gifts which we are receiving in school for children at Birmingham Crisis Centre. If you still are able to bring in a gift, there are labels available in the school porch. Please could you send in your wrapped gift before Wednesday 19th

December? Mr Steggall will be delivering these to the centre at the end of term.

Music Fees Due

Money for music lessons is due for the autumn term and individual bills and music policies have been sent to parents. If you haven't already sent your payment into the school office, then the amounts to pay are as follows:

Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Clarinet and Flute - £90 for the term.

Keyboard Years 5 and 6 - £66 for the term.

Guitar Years 5 & 6 - £70 for the term.

Please can you send your payment into school as soon as possible. If you are paying by cheque, it would be helpful if money for different instruments is sent as separate cheques. Please check with Mrs Michel in the school office if you are not sure if you have paid for the autumn term. Thank you for your co-operation.

Communications

Don't forget there is lots of information posted on the Moor Hall Blog—please take a look:

<http://moorhall.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.moorhall.bham.sch.uk/home>

and please follow us on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/moorhallprimary>



Childcare Vouchers

We welcome childcare vouchers which may be used for Moorhens fees and music fees.

Could you please ensure when authorising the payment of the vouchers that you include in the narrative:

- the initial of the child's first name
- the surname of the child/children
- specify whether the payment is for Moorhens or music fees.

We are also currently in the process of setting up to receive Government Childcare Vouchers and we will advise you when we are fully registered for this. Please contact Mrs Gregory in the School Office if you require any further information.

Reminders

Reception Class 2019

A reminder that the deadline to apply for a place in our reception classes for 2019 is **15th January 2019**. This applies to siblings too.

Sending Money into School

When sending money into school please ensure it is in a sealed envelope with the following written on the envelope:

- Your child's name
- Your child's class
- Amount enclosed
- What the payment is for.

Thank you.

End of Day Pick Up

If your arrangements for collecting your child is different, e.g. going home with another parent, please send a note in to the Class Teacher in the morning whenever possible.

Dinner/Toast Money

If you haven't yet paid either dinner money or toast money for this term please could you send this into school as soon as possible. If you need to check if your payments are up to date, please call into the school reception.

Guitar Lessons

At the end of this term, we will sadly be losing Mr Jones as our guitar teacher. He has worked closely with our guitar students and we were all very impressed to hear them play at our carol concert at St James Church. Although Mr Jones is retiring he has kindly offered to continue to teach the children as one group on a weekly basis, free of charge, whilst we source a new music teacher. We are very thankful to Mr Jones for this kind offer which means the children can continue to practice their instruments in school.

Year 5 Event

During the last week of term some children in Year 5 will be raising awareness about the effects of the use of palm oil on our environment. They are doing some research to be able to give us some useful information about how palm oil is used, what is sustainable palm oil and what we can do to stop using palm oil that destroys habitats. The event will take place in the Year 5 classroom with more details to follow.

Children in Need

Year 6 have held a fantastic fund raising event in aid of Children in Need. The children organised and ran stalls selling treats, a tombola and other games. The rest of the school were invited to attend and enjoy the fun. A big **Thank You** to all the parents or helped, donated and send their children in with money to spend.



**Over £720 raised for
Children in Need**

Cyber-bullying

- 1) Tell an adult you trust if you are being cyberbullied
- 2) Don't respond or retaliate to bullying messages – it could make things worse
- 3) Block users who send you nasty messages
- 4) Save abusive emails or messages (or texts) you receive
- 5) Make a note of dates and times you receive bullying messages, as well as details you have of the user's ID and the url.
- 6) Don't pass on any cyberbullying videos or messages – this is cyber-bullying
- 7) If you are bullied repeatedly change your user ID, or profile, and use a name that doesn't give any information away about you.

Fortnite

Birmingham City Council has shared the following message to schools across Birmingham:

"We have been made aware of an emerging trend, where people are playing strip Fortnite using webcams.

"The rule is that when you achieve a "kill" (elimination) you have to strip off, potentially adding an additional risk from children being exposed to and/or sharing indecent images whilst playing the game."

Epic Games suggest Fortnite is not directed at players under the age of 13 as the game contains violence and has chat features that allows video or text messaging with other online gamers. It is important to know the risks with these types of games. Talk to your children regularly about their online gaming and habits so you know what they are doing. Explore the games yourself to confirm you are happy with what they are doing, agree rules or time limits and manage your devices to keep safe when online.

Sports Round Up

A huge **WELL DONE** to our KS1 Multi-Skills team who came first in their competition this week. The children all worked hard and displayed great team work to secure their first place. Well done to everyone who took part.

Girls' Cricket

Warwickshire Cricket Board are again running Girls' Cricket Coaching Hubs for ages 8—13. This is a 10 week course starting on Friday 11 January ending Friday 15th March 6:00—7:30pm at Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls. The cost of this course is £60. To book please follow this link:

<http://www.warwickshirecricketboard.co.uk/page/women-girls-cricket/women-girls-cricket/winter-cricket-hubs---girls-14526/>

For more information please contact:
nadiabacciochi@edgbaston.com

