



# Ecclesbourne Primary School

## Newsletter Friday 18th December 2015



### Dear Parents and Carers,

As the term and calendar year draw to a close, we can look back on a term of hard work and achievement for the children.

Now that all of our Christmas productions have been performed to sell out crowds, everyone can go away for the holidays knowing they have earned a well deserved break. As I said at the shows, they take a lot of work and I would like to thank again all the staff who helped make them such a success. I'm sure you agree that the shows were a hit. I would also like to thank the parents who came along, the vast majority of whom enjoyed the shows and were a respectful audience. Unfortunately, I feel it necessary to mention a small minority in the audience who impacted on the enjoyment of others by talking, using their mobile phones and generally being discourteous. I would urge people to come along and enjoy the show and the performances of all the children rather than just paying attention when your own child is on stage. Could I also ask that if you must eat snacks during the performance you take your litter home rather than leave it on the floor for others to clear up? For those of you who struggled to get tickets we are looking at the possibility of staging a child-friendly matinee performance next year to ease the congestion and give those with babies the chance to come along without having to worry about them disrupting the show or missing their bedtime.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a restful break. I look forward to seeing you all again in 2016.

**Christmas Donations** Many thanks to everyone who generously donated to Kidney Research UK at the Christmas performances. The school managed to raise over £200 for the important work of this charity which is dedicated to research that will lead to better treatments and cures for kidney disease.

**In the Event of Snow** Now that winter is here we need to remind parents that in the event of extreme weather it may be necessary to close the school. We will always endeavour to keep the school open but sometimes, if staff cannot get in to school or the site becomes unsafe, it may be necessary to close. We will inform parents of any closure by sending a text and by updating the school's website. Parents can also check for details at <http://map.lgfl.org.uk/opencheck>.

**Mobile phones** I would like to remind children and parents about our policy towards children having mobile phones in school. **The school cannot accept any responsibility for mobile phones in school.** As of January, no mobile phones will be allowed in school. Although this has always been the case, we have, in the past, tried to make arrangements to accommodate special circumstances. The collection and storage of mobile phones has now become too onerous for this to be feasible. I'm sure you'll agree that staff having to collect, store and distribute the phones of all the children in year 5 and 6 who go home alone is not a reasonable expectation or a good use of their time. I recognise that many children walk to and from school unsupervised but either you trust them to do that sensibly or you do not. If a child does not arrive at school, the school will contact parents and children can contact working parents once they are home to let them know they have returned safely. Furthermore, police advice is that younger children with mobile phones are more vulnerable because they may be targeted by older children. If you insist that your child brings their phone to school, it will need to be left in the cloakroom with all other personal belongings. If it is seen, it will be collected and returned to an adult who comes to collect it. If it is lost, broken or stolen the school will accept no responsibility.

### **Other events in the coming weeks**

**Monday 4th January** INSET day - school closed

**Tuesday 5th January** Return to School

Paul Robins  
Head of School  
Ecclesbourne Primary School