

It has been fantastically busy this half term and I wanted to share with parents and carers, all of the activities that have been taking place across school since half term.

#### **Cultural Capital**

We have had lots of visits to school this term, including the Fire Brigade (linked to History), real life Owls (reading), Vernon Coaker's assembly (Science), Sycamore Table Tennis Academy (PE), not to mention Pudsey Bear who came into school with BBC Radio (Music/Charity /PHSE)! Our staff have sourced additional experiences for our children through library visits (reading), seeing a performance of School of Rock at Carlton le Willows (drama), taking part in the Remembrance Service in Netherfield (History and PSHE), Victorian and Georgian Experiences (History), a KS2 Carol Service (RE), not to mention the Choir Tour of 2019 which visited local care homes to sing and participate in the switching on of Netherfield's Christmas lights! These events, which are additional to the curriculum are important for our children's development and I thank parents for their support and our staff for their continued commitment to all of our children at school.

Our recently formed PTA, 'The Funky Fundraisers,' have mobilised themselves with great enthusiasm, raising funds for teaching and learning resources. They have been joined by many other parents and staff raising funds through discos, the Christmas Market etc. Once again our children, through School Parliament have been at the forefront of developments with their environmental campaign to swap plastic bags for cotton bags. I know they have further plans around single use plastic water bottles, so expect to see further developments in the New Year!

#### **Reading**

It has been awesome to see the change in reading patterns in school since September. I know parents are hugely supportive of this move and that many, if not all of you are reading at home with your children. I sincerely hope that you take the opportunity over the Christmas break to listen to your child read as well as reading to your child, as it is the single most important factor supporting progress - not forgetting how lovely an activity it is as well! It doesn't always have to have quizzes or questions attached to it, developing the love of reading is hugely important.

Still on the reading front, our children have had some fantastic replies to their emails and letters, from the likes of Anthony Horowitz and JK Rowling! These dialogues with authors, help our children understand that the authors themselves were once school children and that becoming an author is an ambition that they can also share. We are well underway with our plans for World Book Day and reading will remain a huge focus this year.

#### **Charity Begins At School**

Huge thanks to all of you in the community for your continued support with our various charitable causes. The Harvest Festival was a huge success and we gave those food donations to Base 51, as well as supporting Children In Need, Save the Children and more locally, Bags of Blessings. All of these elements of our work, support our children's development by showing them how important it is to be kind, which of course is one of our key values. We will continue our work in the New Year on kindness, looking at how to be good friends and support each other to persevere through difficult moments.



# NETHERFIELD

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### **'Tinsel and Tea Towels' and 'A Bossy King'**

I was immensely proud watching both of these performances this term. The number of children involved and the quality of their work was simply brilliant. I was joined throughout the performances by Mrs Millward our Chair of Governors, Mr Weaver - Head of Carlton le Willows and most importantly a huge number of parents. Your support is always appreciated at these events and I am sure that you found the various accents and songs as entertaining as I did. Huge congratulations to the children and the staff for their hard work. Roll on the next performance!

### **Staffing**

Parents may be aware that Ms McElhone and Mrs Cooper will soon be taking maternity leave and we wish them well as they start a new adventure in their family life. Arrangements to cover these staff members have been in place for some time to ensure a smooth transition for children. We have been joined by Mrs Atkinson, who will support these changes both in Year 6 and across the school. We have also made stronger links with Carlton le Willows to help develop our reading programme. We currently have 16 sixth form volunteers who come down weekly during their free periods, to support our children (and their 6<sup>th</sup> Form University applications!). They deserve great credit for balancing their A-Level studies and supporting the next generations' learning.

### **Parent Voice**

It has been great to speak to so many parents this term, both before and after school. There are some areas that can be supported by observations from you all. Whilst many of our policies and practices are driven by the Trust (GNET), it is worth noting that I have changed playground practice, developed a friendship module of work and reviewed our lunchtime provision, all after having conversations with parents. We have a large piece of work to be ready for Relationship Education in September 2020 and I know Mrs Taylor is hoping that parents will be willing to get involved and support this area of curriculum development.

Finally, sincerest thanks to all for your welcome in September and the supportive comments on my permanent appointment to the role of Headteacher. It is a privilege to lead our staff and be involved with our pupils on a daily basis, even if every time I walk down the corridor someone says 'Why Aye Man!'



Mr J Crone  
Headteacher

### **From the Chair Of Governors, Catherine Millward**

As Mr Crone has mentioned, it was an absolute joy to see both of the productions this term, I was in awe of the sheer number of children involved and the quality of their work. I have visited the school on numerous occasions this year and it is always a pleasant experience in very purposeful classrooms. The behaviour of your children, in particular during the recent interview day was exceptional and drew praise from the trustees, governors and interview candidates. Following Mr Crone's appointment during that process, we can all look forward to a settled start to 2020 with the school's new permanent Headteacher in post. On behalf of the Governing Body I would like to wish all parents and children a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

