



MARY SWANWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

15th December 2017 Issue 31



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**Week
Commencing
18th December**

MON
Christingle

TUES
Last Day
Christmas Parties

WEDS
Holiday

THURS
Holiday

FRIDAY
Holiday

The end of another chapter!

And so, another term here at Mary Swanwick is almost at a close.

To all children, parents, staff, grandparents & those in the local community, thank you for making such a great one.

To name just a few of the notable events...

- The school has been invaded by aliens.
- 52 stake holders have earned their BRONZE LEARNER status, there are 56 SILVER LEARNERS & we now have an incredible 17 GOLD LEARNERS!
- 50% of children have participated in out-of-school sporting events.
- 34% children have accessed school clubs.
- We wowed the local community with two incredible Christmas performances.
- We have raised more than £600 for charity.
- Children (and adults) have overcome fears. #WhitehallAdventures
- Children have travelled to Asia & Australasia.
- Miss Plumtree became Mrs Grainger & Floppy turned 5. (Again.)
- The Evil Peas took over Bumblebee Class.
- An awful lot of learning involved food.
- Some of the team learnt to fight fires!
- There were strange goings on in several classrooms: body parts, pants & creepy crawlies!
- We've gifted numerous children with books to take home and devour.
- Mrs Bell got another makeover.
- Dens have been built and hot chocolate consumed.
- We enjoyed our first ever Movie Night – The Polar Express.

From all here at Mary Swanwick, thank you for being a part of it and helping our children to grow, develop and make memories that will last them a lifetime.

Productions

What better words are there to sum up this week's productions other than: Wow! Wow! Wow!

We were absolutely blown away by all of our pupils in their performances this week. It was a pleasure to see children come to life in role, act, sing, dance and support one another. (And there was some great grown-up dancing too!)

A special thanks goes to: the nursery team for their entire production, from invention to execution and everything in between; Mrs Bell & Mrs Jackson for holding it all together with the whole-school production; the MS team for helping with the execution; Mrs Cresswell for leading the choir; Miss Cundy for the dance moves; Mr Wood for the programme; Mr Monck for the set up; Mr Roshan for the music; Mrs Wright for organisation and you guys – the parents & carers for providing some fantastic costumes and coming to support your children.

All monies raised from the sales of tickets and teas & coffees will be used to provide even more great learning opportunities and rewards for our pupils.

School Improvement – Our journey....

We are a school that continually reviews what it's doing, celebrates the good and works with a positive attitude to sustain improvement.

To support this, Executive Headteacher, Phil Hickey, conducts a cycle of review with members of the school team, and from this supports us to develop future actions to work on.

In addition to continued reflection of all aspects of school life, (from staff morale to safeguarding, outcomes to leadership & policy), we have two priority areas for the year. This year, we have been working to develop ICT and marking & feedback.

So, where are we now with our two priority areas?

ICT:

- We have updated our infrastructure.
- We have upgraded equipment – new interactive boards, new staff laptops & new iPads.
- We are following a new online safety curriculum and delivering regular and timely information about staying safe online through workshops, role play and assemblies.
- Staff have accessed training to support them in using the equipment and delivering the IT curriculum.
- Mini Techies are now in role and have devised an acceptable use policy that will be shared with children in the New Year.
- Parents have been invited to skills swap sessions and have received regular information through newsletters and social media about staying safe online.

Further development (planning, curriculum development & resourcing) is planned for the New Year.

Marking & Feedback:

We have started to look at some initial tweaks with marking & feedback and some members of the KS2 team have started to research alternative strategies for providing children with feedback and trial these with their classes. Further staff development will take place during the Spring & Summer terms.

Staffing news

This week we were delighted to welcome Miss Murray back to school after the birth of her little girl. Don't worry – we won't be losing the fabulous Mrs Owen – she will be staying as part of the team as we head in to 2018!

It is with regret that we say goodbye to our two fabulous trainee teachers Miss Cundy and Mr Wood. It has been a pleasure to be part of their journey and to witness them grow as the weeks have gone on. They truly have worked very hard to develop as teachers and provide great learning opportunities for our children. We wish them all the best for their next placement – the school will be very lucky to have them!!

PE Kits

Please ensure that your child's PE kit is taken home at the end of term. Have a check through and replace outgrown plimsolls etc. over the holiday. Full PE kits for all children need to be in school on the first day back, 3rd January. Please be reminded that this is part uniform and children receive a warning if they are without kit in school thank you.

Key Dates 2018

3 rd January	Return to school
4 th January	Y5 visit – Victorian Classroom
8 th January	Y4 visit - Jorvik
8 th January	Y1 and Y2 visit - Yorkshire Museum
10 th January	Y6 visit – National Holocaust Centre
16 th January	Young Voices Concert – Sheffield Arena
14 th February	Valentine Disco