



# 'The Aspin Owler' – Festive Edition 2!

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Autumn Term 2018-2019

*Issue 8*



## If you are reading this...

As many of you, the school is concerned about the amount of paper we as an organisation get through in any year, and we are investigating ways in which we can reduce our costs, and also to make easier the contact we have with parents.

Therefore my guess is that if you are reading this, you will have received the text directing you to the website where I have placed this newsletter alongside the other ones written this term. We would encourage those of you who have been directed here because **another** received the text, to ensure we have your up to date details because this is one way in which we'd like to communicate more fully moving forward.

## Snow and Other Adversities!

At this time of year, any Head Teacher has an eye on the weather forecast, and whilst others may long for the sight of snowflakes drifting down, it tends to strike me with dismay. At the outset we will do everything we can to stay open, despite the weather, but in the most adverse of conditions we will have to consider closing, which we did on occasion last year, and in years gone by.

There are two major reasons for closing the school in such circumstances, the first being the size of the site, and making it fit enough to use. Mr Richardson and Mr Rowberry will do all they can to ensure we can open by moving snow and gritting, but there will be occasions that the snow will win out. Secondly, and more importantly for me is the safety of our staff who now travel from far and wide to work at Aspin, and if the weather warnings are such that they endanger themselves by coming to work, then the school will be closed. If we do close, I try wherever possible to make this decision the night before or very early the next morning, so to allow for as much time for arrangements to be made. I also try to ensure that we do not close midway through the school day, but if the weather sets in during the day, we may have to close early to allow staff members who live further away the chance to get home.

There are several ways that you can or will find out if the school is closed or not, as if there is doubt I will confirm either way ;

- 1. We will text you directly (again an up to date number is crucial for this.)**
- 2. I will ring Stray FM and Radio York to let them we are closed.**
- 3. I will put up a message on the front page of the website informing you of the closure.**

Let's hope that this is a paragraph I do not need to have to action, but it is best to be prepared for all eventualities, if we get a winter like we did in 2009 and 2010, then I may be permanently updating the website.

## Assemblies This Half Term

I am always grateful for those classes and year groups that lead the Friday assemblies, and they are without exception hugely well received by all of those attending them. When I first arrived at Aspin parents and other family members did not see these assemblies, and from an early point it was clear that they were missing out. My thanks to Year 6, 2M, Year 1 and 3CG who have royally entertained this half term.

## Foundation Nativities

I have always maintained that one of the best moments of any school year is the Foundation Nativity, and we were not disappointed this year with some great performances, none more so than from our narrators and twinkling stars! It always shows as well how quickly children settle into school over these first three months, it seems scarcely believable that they have only done nearly fourteen weeks so far. My thanks to all of the Foundation staff for their support of the children to get them to the stage, with costumes, props and a back drop behind them any theatre would be proud to produce.

## New Starters 2019-2020

We have completed our series of Prospective Parents Tours for next September, and this week alone I have had an extra five tours around the school with parents unable to attend these sessions. I am delighted that the demand is high, and I hope this translates into being full next September. This is a reminder to those parents who have a child in school and one ready to start from September 2019; **you must apply for a place like everyone else.** Having a child at the school is not a guarantee that you will receive a place next September, although 'sibling link' does make this more likely, behind actually living in catchment of course. The closing date for all applications is **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January.** Please don't miss the deadline.

## Illness

As the winter takes its grip, so too does illness across school. Whilst our attendance as a school is above the national average, there will be periods of the year, where illness kicks in with children and staff alike. The end of a very long term is usually a time where this may be the case. If a child does experience sickness or diarrhoea during this illness, they should not return to school for 48 hours from the last bout – even if they look or appear recovered. Your support in this is greatly appreciated.

## Christmas Cards

If your child wishes to send any Christmas Cards next week Y6 are prepared to act as posties between Monday and Thursday. The post box in the entrance hall is the place to bring your cards – please ensure all cards have the child's **name and class** on them to ensure delivery.

