

Dear Parents/Carers

What a busy, but enjoyable, term we have had. The Autumn is the longest term of our school year starting with late summer sunshine, then this year the November snow and now grey December! However, the last few weeks have been in no way grey and gloomy, they have been lit up with end of term events from the wonderful productions from EYFS, Year 2 and Year 4, the fun-filled end of term parties and the community feel we had at our annual carols and music concert supported by the PSA. Read about these events further on in the newsletter. Thank you to all the generous donations from our productions, £540 has been raised which will go towards us providing enrichment opportunities for the children.

There have been some staffing changes this term, too. We welcome Mrs Straker and Miss Galloway to the staff team. Mrs Straker will be teaching in each of the Year 1 and 2 classes for a session each week. Miss Galloway joins the support staff team in EYFS.

Now it is a time for families to spend time together, turning off alarm clocks and slowing down the pace a little. However you are spending the next two weeks, I wish you and those closest to you best wishes and look forward to seeing you all refreshed in the new year.

Thank you  
Iona Mock



## Diary Dates

### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

School re-opens for the Spring Term

### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

Parent/Teacher Meetings

### **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

School closed for Half Term

### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>/Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

Year 2 visit to Beaumanor Hall

### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

World Book Day

## House Point for this month

**Beech** 710

**Mulberry** 934

**Sycamore** 802

**Willow** 802

**Well done to this month's winners!**



**Mulberry**

## End of Term Productions

### *Come Into The Stable – Foundation Stage*



Our youngest children in the Foundation Classes put on a wonderful performance, their first time on the school stage! The confidence the children showed was just incredible and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the amazing singing including a solo!



### *Hey Ewe! – Year 2*

Year 2's performance was full of energy. All the children were fully engaged in the whole production, singing songs with gusto and everyone on the stage spoke clearly and confidently. What a 'wow' show!



### *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse – Year 4*

This musical has been created by the author of the well-known book for children to perform so that they and those watching it understand the important message of kindness, friendship, courage and hope. The audience were treated to an amazing performance full of emotion and enjoyment.





## Science Champions

Our Year 6 Science Champions have planned, organised and run a lunchtime club for younger pupils. The club for Year 2 children found them running activities involving: paper airplanes and spinners, magnets, sound and balloon rockets. The younger children were very excited and thoroughly enjoyed learning new things while having fun with their older peers.



The Champions had a Science Challenge session led by Ms Dale from Woodbrook Vale School. They learnt about tracking inherited characteristics and DNA and took part in an investigation in which they extracted DNA from strawberries. They all rose to the challenge and thoroughly enjoyed the lesson.





Well done to all the children who entered the BBC 500 words story writing competition. We had a record-breaking number of children taking part this year and they have all received certificates.

A special mention to Lydia in Class Emerald whose story, The Giraffe who Lost His Laugh, has been selected to go through to the next round of the competition.

## *Sporting News*

### Quarter finalists in basketball competition

It was tough going in a recent basketball competition against 15 other teams. Our team of Peniel, Morgan, Dion, Milo, Jaden and Amelia fought tirelessly against the opposition winning one game, drawing one and losing one in the group stages. We progressed to the quarter finals but were then beaten by a very strong Holywell team 3,0. We played well and had lots of shots on the basket but we were unfortunate that the ball just didn't seem to want to go in! The children all loved playing and it was a bonus to have the young Leicester Riders team refereeing their games.

### Success at North Charnwood Swimming Gala

Eight Year 5/6 children recently took part in a swimming gala at Loughborough Leisure Centre against 7 other schools. The children all performed brilliantly against some tough opposition and we were pleased to finish in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall. Well done to Emiko, Maia, Ettie, Darcy, Elliot, Edris, Ralph and Rory!

Our children were delighted with their successes and enjoyed sharing their medals with staff and children on our return to school.



Congratulations to:

**Emiko** – Gold Year 5 Girls Breaststroke and Bronze Year 5 Girls Butterfly

**Maia** – Silver Year 5 Girls Backstroke

**Rory** – Silver Year 5 Boys Backstroke and Bronze Year 5 Boys Butterfly

**Ettie, Darcy, Maia and Emiko** – Bronze Girls Mixed Age Group Medley Relay

## Wins for Year 5/6 Girls in BEP Football League – 2nd Fixture

What a wonderful afternoon of sport the girls football team had! This was the second group fixture in the BEP League and included 4 matches. The girls won all of them convincingly, which was simply fantastic! Amelia was on top form as our main striker, scoring an amazing 12 of the 14 goals and was superbly supported by the rest of the team - Darcy, Isla, Mya, Rosie and Bea.



There results mean that, together with the previous matches, they are the unbeaten team and head into the New Year top of the group of 12 schools. Well done girls – your team spirit and attitude are simply awe inspiring!

The school has been awarded an Equal Access award in recognition of the opportunities in place for girls' football across the curriculum and competitions.



## Team medals galore in Leicestershire Primary School Cross Country League.

Our cross-country team have recently been busy with two league races scheduled only 2 weekends apart. 35 children have been involved in both leagues at Mallory Park against schools from all over the county, battling for every single placing.



Mrs Mock and Mrs Newport have been impressed with the resilience of our children. Some have fallen over in the mud and got straight back up, whilst others have lost a shoe and continued to the end with only one shoe on! Many have shown commendable consistency with their performances over the three leagues.

Team results from the three leagues have just been finalised and Mountfields Lodge has been incredibly successful in the large school category across the age groups.

Year 4 Girls – Gold

Year 3 Girls – Silver

Year 5 Boys – Silver

Year 6 Girls – Silver

Year 6 Boys - Bronze

This is a wonderful achievement for our school. Team medals will be handed out at a specially organised presentation morning at Loughborough Grammar School on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January.

Individually, Vaila (Year 4 Girls) has shone in each of the races, winning the first race and coming second in the second and third races. This has led to her winning the gold medal and overall league champion for Year 4 Girls – a fantastic achievement!





### Boys Football

In the second outing to the BEP league the focus for the boys was teamwork . They played really well together, giving each other encouragement in some challenging matches. The team won one, drew one and lost one. They should be proud of their performance.



### Thank You from the PSA

We want to extend a huge **thank you** to everyone who has contributed to our **Winter Hamper** collection. Your generosity has been epic, and thanks to your donations and the hard work of the children and staff who created such amazing hampers, we've already raised an incredible **£1000 (and counting!)**. This, combined with funds raised from our first **Samosa Sale** and **Secondhand Uniform Sale** of the year, means we can continue to support events and activities that directly benefit the children at our school.

A special **thank you** also goes to our fantastic PSA team, whose volunteering makes everything possible. This term, we've been gently kick-starting the year, laying the groundwork for what promises to be an exciting calendar of events ahead!

Next term we hope to see the **unveiling of the new PSA shed** - a welcome addition that will help us manage and store resources for our many activities - along with the fantastic mix of events, including activities around **World Book Day**, a **school disco** and more! Keep your eyes peeled for announcements.

### School Uniform

Please can you make sure for the start of the new term that all uniform and coats are named – this makes it easier to return to the owner. The lost property box is overflowing with coats, jumpers, cardigans etc and this seems such a waste. We try to put the box out each week so, if you do know your child has lost something, please check it!

We ask that children do not wear jewellery at school, as it can be dangerous on the playground and difficult to trace if it is lost. However, if earrings are to be worn, they must be small, plain studs. Please can we also ask that nail varnish is not worn to school.

### Parking

As you know, parking around the school is always a challenge and we understand the frustration some parents have with this.

Mountfields Family Hub's car park (at the front of the school) is for their use only and not the school. The Hub have chosen to cone this off in the mornings as a number of parents were parking there. The community police team have attended the site on a few occasions over the last few weeks to ensure the area around school is safe for our children and their families. They have also added cones to part of the road to ensure there is a clear flow of traffic.

Please can we ask that if you are dropping your child off at the front of school they get out of the car on the pavement side and not straight out into the road.

Remember that parents are able to park at the Toby Carvery and walk along the Green Belt path to school which is both safe and enjoyable. Thank you for those who continue to park considerately.