

Manor Primary School

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17th December 2015
(Letter 8)

Dear Parents / Carers

It has been a busy final week of term, with a lot going on.

The **Christmas Fair** on Monday went extremely well, it was good to see so many families here. We had three floors of games and activities being run by staff and children. The usual favourites continued to draw the children in, as well as some new ones which were a hit – the new popcorn machine went down very well! We raised slightly more than last year. We haven't finalised the figures yet, but when we add together the money from the Fair, the raffle and the Christmas assemblies it comes to over £900. We will be asking the School Council in the New Year for their ideas about what this might be good to spend it on. Thank you to all of you who came to support us, and thank you to all the staff who helped to organise and run the event.



The **Christmas assemblies** have all gone well with a large number of parents and families coming to watch. It works well having separate assemblies as it means that you are all able to get a better view of the action! Lots of hard work goes into preparing the children for the assemblies – lines to learn, songs to practise, costumes to make – and I would like to thank all the staff for their work over the last few weeks in the preparation. I hope you all enjoyed watching the assemblies as much as the children enjoyed performing them!

We had **Christmas Lunch** as well this week which is a fun way to mark the end of the term. The children enjoy the staff joining them for lunch as well as the crackers with the hats and jokes! I think I know all the jokes in the crackers by now! Thank you to Debbie and her team who prepare the lunch and feed not only all of the children but all the staff too.



Some dates for this term and next term for your diaries:

INSET DAY – Friday 22nd January (school closed for children)
World Religion Day – Monday 25th January
UNICEF Day for Change – Friday 5th February
Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 9th February
World Book Days – 3rd & 4th March
Whole School Music Concert – Friday 18th March
History Days – 23rd & 24th March
Parents' Evenings – February 24th (4-8pm); July 13th (4-6pm)



ASSEMBLIES

Chinese New Year (Buddhist) – Wednesday 10th Feb
Easter (Christian) – Tuesday 22nd March

Don't forget that we have an **INSET day** planned for January 22nd 2016. This day will be training for all the staff on 'Talk for Writing' which is a strategy that encourages children to rehearse their writing before actually doing it. It is something which will help us to help the children to improve the quality of their writing, and will hopefully then impact on the progress that they are able to make. By February half term the children should be able to describe to you the sorts of new things that they are doing in class to help them with their writing.



I realise that I didn't let you know the good news earlier on in the term. **Ms Hiscock had a baby boy**, Archie at the end of September. They are both well, and Archie is growing fast. She is hoping to bring him in to school in the New Year to introduce him to the children which will be lovely.



As you can see from the date box above next term will be another busy one. There are a lot of events planned as well as all the 'normal' learning taking place. The children (and staff!) need a good rest over the holidays in order to be ready for the new term, and I look forward to seeing you all back in school on Monday 4th January 2016. For those of you celebrating next week I wish you a very happy Christmas with family and friends, and to all of you I wish you all the best for 2016.

Kate McGee
Headteacher

