

Dear parents and carers,

We made it! It has seemed a very long and busy term, but as ever, your children have been fantastic and I am very proud of the many achievements and celebrations we have seen this term.

I had the privilege of witnessing some absolutely beautiful performances from our Reception children in their nativity and our senior choir performing “Ebenezer Scrooge’s Quiet Night in”. Both were wonderful and showcased the very talented children (and staff!) we have at EBPS! Monday evening’s “Carols on the Playground” was also a wonderful community event.

Special thanks must go to Jon and Lyn Rees who composed the musical and wrote the lyrics and music especially for children. The performance was different to the one performed by the adults group at the Methodist Church but was an absolute joy to behold! We were also lucky to have Jon accompany the live performances on the keyboard and Kevin Flannigan on the drums. Special thanks also to our music lead, Mrs Sarah Levell, for her incredibly hard work in rehearsing senior choir and getting them singing and performing to such a high standard – along with all of the other Christmas music events!

Our senior choir has been very busy this term, performing at multiple events including singing for the Earls Barton luncheon club Christmas meals on two consecutive Fridays. The children’s singing brought a smile to many faces as they serenaded the luncheon club members with some classics and some new Christmas songs.

You may have heard that, after 23 years, Mrs Tina Skett is leaving EBPS and relocating to be closer to her family in Wales. As the longest-serving member of staff here, Mrs Skett’s wisdom, loyalty and dedication to the children and families of Earls Barton will be sorely missed. We held a special “farewell” assembly today, celebrating the legacy Mrs Skett has left and singing lots of her favourite songs as well as holding a “guard of honour” with the legendary Year Six swords! Thank you Tina for all you have done for the school, village, families and children. We all wish you every happiness for the future.

Also today, Mrs Bryan starts her maternity leave and we wish her well for the imminent arrival! We welcome Miss Sharon Barrett as the new Daisy class teacher. Miss Sarah Brown will be the new Ash class teacher – both join our team in January and we are delighted to have them working us.

#### **Term dates:**

A reminder term 3 begins on Thursday 4th January – doors open at 8:45am. We look forward to welcoming the children back. Thursday PE for Y2 and Y2 will occur as normal.

#### **PTA:**

Thanks to our dedicated and hard-working PTA volunteers for all they have done this term to support the school and to not only raise money, but also build a sense of community spirit. The PTA helped Santa gift every child a book, gave class games to KS2 and provided the refreshments at our Carols on the Playground. Special thanks to co-chairs Tanya Chapman and Tina Biggs for their leadership and drive!

#### **Happy Hols:**

Thanks also to Wendy Bell and her team for the excellent wraparound care service they provide to the children here. Happy Hols recently underwent a food hygiene inspection and were awarded the top-rating of 5\*! Well done to the Happy Hols team.

### **Choir gifts:**

We were delighted to have been gifted 43 “Snapper” toys courtesy of GXO Distribution working in partnership with John Lewis and Waitrose. The venus fly-trap toy is a feature of this year’s John Lewis Christmas advert. We randomly selected 43 winners from junior and senior choir members using a wheel of fortune so these children will come home with these gifts today! Thanks to Mr Eldershaw for organising this kind donation.

Thank you to those who have sent Christmas wishes, cards or gifts in for the staff here – on behalf of everyone, I would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Miss Lally

### **Letters home this week**

Ancient Greek day reminder - Y5 only

Y4 swimming volunteers needed

Gymnastics club letter

Y4 swimming lessons information

Daisy class teacher

### **Attachments**

Online advice – setting up new devices