

# Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic Voluntary Academy

18th December 2014

Dear Parents

Sometimes I have to pinch myself as a reminder that I get paid for this wonderful job. Being at Blessed Robert Widmerpool for the last few weeks has been a joy! I have been able to share with many of you and your families the fabulous nativities, the Academy Concert, the Advent Celebration and our final Advent Mass. Every occasion has been a blessing and lifted all of our spirits.

## **FS1**

The children held their nativity in the outdoors. Many of you were there and listened to what could only be described as joyful and uplifting with plenty of enthusiasm. The children were just gorgeous.

## **FS2**

The story of Christmas was told through the angels' preparation for a party. I was amazed at how grown up the children seemed, bearing in mind that they are only 4 and 5 years old. They spoke with confidence and sang beautifully; it was lovely.

## **Year 1**

*Where's the midwife?* Here our stage was graced with a donkey called Steve who kept on saying 'no body ever listens to a donkey', even when he had a special message to give. The children were a delight and helped us to appreciate that Jesus was born in a stable. A precious baby, the gift of God.

## **Year 2**

*Christmas with the Aliens.* Not content with a donkey on our stage we had aliens too! along with innkeepers, shepherds, kings and Mary and Joseph. The children taught the aliens about Jesus' birth and the important message was that Christmas was a time of peace, joy and love. The singing was wonderful, the costumes were great, some faces were green and children were exceptional.

## **Year 3**

*Gabriel's Message* All about Gabriel stepping into the breach when other angels were poorly. Gabriel had a list of jobs to do: to get the star to shine, sort out somewhere for Mary and Joseph to stay, telling the shepherds what to do and passing on the message of God's love for us all. It was a wonderful celebration.



**Back to School**  
**Monday 5th January**

**Swimming**  
**Years 3&4**  
**Monday 5th January**

**Year 6**  
**IMPS Visit**  
**7th January**

**Ice Arena Visit**  
**Years 2, 3 and 4**  
**Friday 9th January**

### **Academy Concert**

This year our choir excelled themselves. We had worked with Mrs Bracha, one of our governors, to develop our singing. Our Years 5 and 6 children sang 'Do you hear what I hear?' in harmony. Their singing made the hairs on the back of our necks stand on end. They did so well and were a credit to the school community. It was wonderful to join together with the other schools in our Academy Trust (St Patricks, St Edwards, St Edmund Campion and The Becket) as well as English Martyrs who joined us for the night. It was also great to see so many of our ex pupils singing or playing instruments as part of the Becket School.

### **Carols Around The Tree**

Our annual gathering around our tree was lovely and gave you all the opportunity to join in with the singing of traditional carols and Christmas songs. The atmosphere was great and I would like to thank you all for your enthusiasm and energy. Our children love to sing and evidently so do you.

Thank you for your support, it raised £500 for school. We are very grateful and hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

### **Advent Mass**

Today we celebrated our final Mass of the term. It was a lovely occasion with lots of songs from each of the nativities coming together in our celebration. Children from every year group participated either reading a prayer doing the offertory or singing. It was a truly joyful occasion where Father Philip blessed our new crib. It was lovely to see so many of you there and some of our expupils who managed to be there with us.

### **Photographs and filming of Nativities**

It is no wonder that you want to have photographs and videos of your children in the nativities and celebrations. However, you will have heard me say that it is your responsibility to ensure that photographs and films must not be posted on social media. Our reason for asking for the photos to be kept off line is because some parents have requested this may be for personal reasons or more seriously it could be a child protection concern. Should the Governors discover that this request has not been respected and photographs are posted online, they will take legal advice and may have to reconsider our position to allow photographs and videos to be taken at school events.

### **In our Year of Adventure...**

Year 6 had an adventure and a half at the Briars and Conkers. Not only did the children Kata-canoe and complete a very muddy assault course, they enjoyed a walk in the Derbyshire hills and a range of activities at the Briars (The Diocesan Centre for Young People)

Their behaviour and attitude was a credit to them, their families and the school. I am pleased to report that they all went to sleep on time... well before midnight at least!

### **Wooden Cross**

You may have noticed our lovely cross on the wall as you come into school. Hopefully this will give you a chance to reflect on the ethos of our school, *'Working together in the footsteps of Jesus as we live and learn'* (our school mission statement)

### **Parking**

Sadly we have received some complaints from our neighbours where parents from Blessed Robert Widmerpool have parked across their drives. I urge you to park considerately and safely. The church car park will be open from this weekend so come the New Year you will be able to park there and walk to school. Hopefully this will ease the congestion around the school.

### **Fundraising**

The DePaul 'sleepout' has raised £775.50 so far

Christmas Jumper Day and Save the Children has raised £456.00.

Thank you for supporting this as part of our charitable giving.

The BRW Bake Off has been a great success, winners will be announced at tomorrow's Achievement Assembly.

### **School Information**

Some parents are finding it difficult to access our methods of communication; they may not even be reading this! Letters are given to children, they are posted on the website, on twitter and on our Facebook page. If you have difficulty knowing what is going on in school, please let us know and we will try to find different ways to communicate with you.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. See you all on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**Please visit our school website: [brwacademy.com](http://brwacademy.com)**

**Twitter: @BRWSchool**

