

HT Report – 20 January 2025

Warm Thanks

The support shown in the lead up to and throughout Christmas was excellent.

This applies to the Tesco fundraiser as well as the tremendous work done for the Christmas Extravaganza.

We are so grateful and never take this for granted.

As much as we appreciate this for the fundraising, the community spirit generated throughout these events cannot be quantified in value – it is immeasurable. We love it and are most grateful for the support.

Well done and thank you to all involved.

We hope that everyone enjoyed our Extravaganza offerings this year – we were very proud of our children. We were equally proud of their singing at the Carols this year, which achieved a very nice attendance rate and great atmosphere too. Our parties went smoothly, and it was great to finish the term with our annual panto, which appeared to be well received.

School Events Coming Up

We had planned to have a whole school Cultural Diversity Celebration in our hall on Friday 14th February. We have quite a lot of Carstairs Connect sessions and class showcases / assemblies coming up. As a result of all of the different things in the pipeline, staff discussed this and will still go ahead with a celebration, but with more time made available to prepare it and we will share it on 28 February in video format – conscious of not asking too much of parents to get there, when we are already asking for showcase and Carstairs Connect involvement so frequently this term.

Dates list for the remainder of the term will go out this week.

We would like help with teas and coffees on Enterprise Morning please – 10.30. Please note that we will have an art gallery and art sale going on for this year's event, so parents should factor consideration of this in when volunteering services.

January Enrolment

14 enrolments.

With placing requests / deferrals think 8 or 9 is closer to the figure.

No guarantee of placing requests being granted - this would enhance our numbers and keep more aligned with current position of 98 children (as of today).

With these figures, likely to have maximum of five classes again going forward next school session.

Staffing

As of 04 February, we will be back to having our core staff in place, with the exception of Mrs Hunter whose maternity leave commenced at the beginning of November – she hopes to take a year's maternity leave. We congratulate her and Mr Hunter on the safe arrival of baby Zachary, who is doing well. Mrs Casserly will return to work on Tuesday 04 February and will teach P5/6

on a Monday, a Tuesday morning to cover Mrs Allan's CCCT time, and all day on a Wednesday. Additionally, she will cover P6/7 CCCT on a Tuesday, releasing Mrs Guthrie for her time out. We look forward to having Mrs Casserly back in the saddle and have missed her. We thank Miss Watson for her hard work and effort and wish her well in her next assignment.

School Improvement Plan Update

On track with actions planned to be achieved within the school year, although slightly behind with our RRSA application owing to a paperwork glitch (wrong form used for submission and Mrs Hodge having to re-submit) and timescale for Play Station room. These items should be fully overtaken in the coming weeks. As previously mentioned, we wont apply for Reading Schools this year, in favour of looking more closely at equalities. Our planned diversity videos, along with work in all classes leading up to this, in the month of February will help us to garner pace with this development.

Lockerbie

In the next few weeks, this will begin to raise in profile again, as we kick into full organisational mode for this and relevant parents will be contacted. At the moment, the charge remains at £277.

School Policy Updates

Comments were received from two parents that received our updated ASN and Inclusion Position Statement update back in November. This hasn't yet been added to our website / shared more widely as I hoped to take a little more feedback from Parent Partnership in the first instance (this evening).

With the group previously having agreed to supporting policy updates, ask that we can spend some time this evening looking at our updated Learning, Teaching and Assessment Position Statement. This now includes input from all stakeholders and am eager to take feedback on this draft too, before sharing more widely. Copies are available for your perusal and comment this evening.