

## Dear Parents &amp; Carers

January 2019



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## Message from Mrs Majcher

We had a very enjoyable Christmas season in school last term. The children enjoyed taking part in the Advent and Christmas decoration competitions and winning the prizes. Mrs Williams organised and ran our Cinema Night which was a great success. The children munched and drank their way through the film very quietly. There was a lovely atmosphere in the hall. Then our nativity plays were a great success for our youngest children. Christmas lunch was very well received by all, as one child said, "this is the best turkey ever". Christmas Jumper Day was fun, I didn't realise there were so many different jumpers around. All these activities raised approximately £700 for our new library. Thank you also for all the kind words and gifts sent. Now we welcome the spring term.

## School Performance Tables

These were published in December and I'm very pleased to say that we are holding our own when compared to some local schools. We have achieved 64% for the combined score which is the government recognised floor level and a marked improvement from last year's score of 35%. This is a great result considering those children had only been learning the new curriculum for two and a half terms. Well done Carrington Junior!!

## Echoes 8

We are very fortunate to have been given 30 spaces to take part in the Echoes 8 massed choir concert at the Royal Albert Hall on 18th March. Children in Year 5 and 6 will be given the opportunity to audition for a place in the Carrington choir for this in the week beginning 7th January 2019.

This is an amazing opportunity to take part in something very special and learn musical and teamwork skills that will help them in all areas of their future lives. Rehearsals start on Thursday 17th January.

## New Chairs for Year 5

Our Y5 children were very excited to receive brand new chairs last month. In fact they were so excited that they were helping Mr Pearce unload them! Since I came I have been concerned about the quality of the furniture used by the children and Y5 was the worst by far. The chairs were actually breaking and we got to the point where we did not have enough chairs for the children. The new chairs are very durable and appropriately sized for the children. We have bought them in green which is the year 5 colour. The children are loving them.

## Library Update

Children should be exposed to quality literature at all times. This helps to build their vocabulary and generate a life long love for reading. Our children are still struggling with English grammar and through reading we are closing this gap. The Big Cat reading scheme is very well enjoyed by our children and to widen this experience with a quality library would be amazing for our children.

We have had a library expert give us an estimate of replacing the books, which are very dated. This came to approximately £10,000. Then we have gathered quotes for updating the furnishing and this will be approximately £9000. We will then need to update the software for maintaining the books this will probably be about £1500 with an annual charge of about £500. The PTA and school funds will be used to cover some of the cost. We have already squirreled away the monies raised from events during the autumn term and we have lots of great ideas to raise more funds this term, beginning with a cake sale next week. Please support us if you can.

## Local Poet Julian Bazley

In December a local children's poet delivered an exciting assembly all about The Brilliant Fish. Julian Bazley wowed us all with excerpts from his latest book- The Brilliant fish and the Clumsy Octopus, and how he got his inspiration. He has left us lots of copies for children to purchase at a discounted price of £6.50. If you would like a copy for your child, please let the office know.

Julian has also donated several copies as a prize for a poetry competition. The children were asked to write a poem about something that inspires them. Next week, the children can work on editing their poem and submitting their final draft, with a picture if they want. The winner from each year group will be presented with a signed copy of the book by Julian himself.

## SeeSaw App

Mr Nathan has had amazing success with SeeSaw in his class. This is an app where teachers can send parents/carers parts of their children's work so parents/carers have a good understanding of what is being taught and how they can further support their child. Parents/carers in Year 6 have found this to be very useful and comments received reflect this. We are now planning to roll this out to the rest of the school. Mr Nathan has been awarded Seesaw Ambassador status. People receive this award when they show a commitment to Seesaw over a three year period, ensuring that certain parental targets are hit, weekly. We have added the logo to our website. Well done Mr Nathan. Please watch out for information on how to download this app.

## Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Time
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Cake sale - children – break and lunch, parents from 2.50 pm	
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Drop & Stop	9-11am
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Information Meeting for Y4 Residential Trip	5.30 pm
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> /Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultation evenings	Timings to be decided
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Valentine Cake Raffle/Chocolate Raffle	Assembly
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Children break up for Half Term	3.15 pm
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Children return to school	8.40 am
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day	
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Drop & Stop	9-11am
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Echoes 8 Royal Albert Hall Performance	All day
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Mufti Day PTA disco	All day Timings to be decided
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Look	3.30-4pm
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Look	8.15-8.40am
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Y4 Easter Assembly	2.45pm
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Y4 Residential	
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Break up for Easter	1pm

## Mathletics

Following a hugely successful trial with the Learning Council, the school has invested in a mathematics platform called Mathletics. Mathletics is a fun way to learn maths, through topic-based practice and games. It takes account of children's prior learning and gives them points for everything they achieve. Mathletics can be accessed from home also and to encourage its use at home, we will start a weekly class competition. Further details will follow. We were able to purchase Mathletics as we were given a very generous donation from a parent for which we are very grateful.

## School Photographs

A huge thank you for buying the school photographs last term. Braiswick Photographic Co Ltd donated £44.50 to Cancer Research as part of their 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebrations.

## Living Streets

Please see attached information.

With all good wishes for the New Year.

Mrs Majcher and staff