



## Newsletter for Parents and Carers: 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2014

### We have been adopted!

Following an initial visit from one of our teaching support staff we have been “adopted” by Wilko store in Manor Walks. Each store can adopt a local group to support, and we are so pleased and grateful that they chose us. To date we have received three loads of surplus stock for us to use in school which included a wheel barrow, rain barrels, gardening equipment, bulbs and barbecue equipment. They donated a new Christmas tree complete with lights and an angel for the top!

They have supported our school fair and in return we have given them our thanks and shown our appreciation with some hand made goods and treats made by our fantastic cook.

We look forward to this relationship continuing to flourish next year.



### Whickham Thorns

All students enjoyed a day at Whickham Thorns Activity Centre doing an assault course, rock climbing, tubing and problem solving. The day was a huge success as it gave students the opportunity to develop team skills with their peers; enhance and develop new and existing friendships; to participate in a range of activities to develop self-confidence and independence.



### Mobile phones / E Safety

A reminder that pupils must hand in phones during school time. To fully guarantee that pupils will be safe from the Cyber World this is a rule we must enforce. Parents of students who do not comply will be asked to come to school to collect the mobile phone.



## Operation Playground

For some time now we have recognised the need to provide students with access to outdoor equipment for them to use at break times and where appropriate in P.E. Lessons. The equipment needs to be suitable for the age and abilities of our students, be robust enough to withstand the wear and tear and promote healthy activity, fitness and fun.

You will appreciate this is a major task and not something which can be funded solely from school funds. We are putting together a funding bid to ask for help with the cost and making an application for the school to be awarded charitable status. This will help us to make the most of any monies we raise.

We now have the first of three possible plans displayed in school so the students can have the chance to make suggestions and be involved in the decisions we make. We are also looking to build a sensory garden with seating, and some raised beds that we can use for gardening.

We will update you at every stage of this exciting process.



## Governor Message

I wanted to take this opportunity of thanking all the School Governors, Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff, Parents and Pupils for their hard work during the last year. The time seems to have gone by very quickly as we find ourselves at the end of another year.

After 20 years as Chair of Governors it is my intention to retire from the Board once the Governors are Re - Constituted later in the New Year.

I am pleased to announce that we have been awarded Governor Mark. This is a huge achievement for school.

Happy Christmas and Best wishes for the New Year.

John Joynton

Chair of Governors



## Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of the support you have given over the last year. Successful partnerships between home and school are crucial to helping children flourish. It has been amazing to see so many of you at our Exhibition Days to share the wonderful work produced.

### Dates for the Diary

**Friday, 19th December Break up for Christmas**

**Monday, 5th January Return to School**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February School Closed for Staff Training Day**

Thanks also for supporting all of our fundraising efforts and events.

**You helped us raise £438 at our Christmas School Fair.**

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to working with you again in 2015.

Mrs Mead