



Wednesday 21 December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

St Albans Cathedral – the Choir

The Greenway Choir were a credit to the school at their performance on Sunday 4 December at St Albans Cathedral. Performing in front of a thousand people in the audience could have been very daunting but the Choir were magnificent. A huge thank you to the children from the other school choirs and to Mrs O'Brien for all her hard work.

Christmas Fair

We held a very successful Christmas Fair on Saturday 10 December. We have raised approximately £5,000! Another big thank you needs to go to Megan Bartholomew and Bev Millar our GSA Co –Chairs as well as all the volunteers. Do look at photos on the school website. I would also like to say how grateful I am to Miss Dell who liaised with our Co-Chairs throughout to ensure everything ran smoothly.

KS2 Carol Concert

With the arrival of the snow and treacherous icy conditions a change of venue was announced at very short notice for this year's Greenway KS2 Carol Concert when the Greenway playground took the place of All Saints Church! Everyone pulled together, wrapped up warm and exercised in between each song with audience participation with the singing! A concert to remember.

Nativity

Due to the continuing high levels of staff sickness and absence, Nursery and Reception had not had consistent staff to support them in practising for this year's Nativity. However, they pulled out all the stops and performed brilliantly. It was a Nativity to remember. I am so proud of them and wish to pass on thanks to all the staff who supported the children and Nursery and Reception parents who helped with the costumes and practised their children's lines with them!

Christmas Cards of Hope

Please do look at the school website for details of the community project which all children at the school became involved with by making Christmas cards for distribution in the community to those who are alone at Christmas. Thank you to Mrs Bennett for leading on this.

Wrap around care – Price increases

We advised you in the November newsletter that we are reviewing our provision and in particular the hourly rates to be charged. This review is still on going and we will ensure that we communicate with you early next term with our decision.

With regards to the closure of Waccy last Monday and Tuesday (due to staffing and the treacherous weather conditions) the Governing Body decided at their meeting on 14 December that if you would like a credit for any of these missed sessions then please email mandy.clutson@greenway.herts.sch.uk.

School Relationships Sex and Health Education Policy

As per the Parent Forum minutes dated 9 November, I am enclosing a reminder of the information contained within those minutes:

'The key topics being taught for each age group (curriculum map) along with the age appropriate language for each age group are clearly set out at Appendix A in the Relationships Sex & Health Education Policy located on the school website [here](#) Parents are encouraged to take a look at that information, which is shown in detail for every age group. They may also want to remind themselves of the information in that policy at Appendix B (which details what each child should know when they leave primary school) and in the PSHE Policy at Appendix A [here](#) where information is given about which Jigsaw resources are used to cover each topic (Jigsaw calls them 'puzzles') by year group.'

Easter Camp

We are provisionally looking at running an Easter Camp from Monday 3 - Thursday 6 April 2023. More information will follow next term, but we thought you might like to know the dates in advance

St Thomas More School will be closed on Monday 9 January 2023

Arrangements for dropping and collecting children at Greenway on 9 January will be different as there will be no access to Greenway via St Thomas More's main entrance or their side gate. For those families who would normally use these access points our side gate off Gilbert Way alleyway will be open before and after school on Monday 9 January 2023 on a 'one off' basis. As you know we do not have the staffing to enable this side gate to be opened on a daily basis.

School reopens on Monday 9 January 2023 and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Thank you for your continued support and understanding in what has been an extremely tricky few weeks at school with high staff and pupil illness and treacherous weather conditions on top of that. I do hope that you all manage to have a healthy and restful Christmas break.

Regards

Katharine Ellwood
Headteacher