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MASTERTON NEWS

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DECEMBER 2023



Christmas in the School

We had our Christmas Fayre a couple of weeks ago and it went very well. Even though the weather was quite nasty that night lots of people turned up and helped support the school event.

In total we raised around **£2,700** which will be put towards improving the reading resources in the school. A big part of this will be spent on updating novels and class libraries.



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I had just about enough time to squeeze in a short newsletter before Christmas. December has been a very busy month in the school (as usual) with everyone trying to tie up lots of loose ends before the school closes on Wednesday. So straight on with the newsletter.

I have lots of people to thank for this.

Thanks to everyone who handed in items for the tombola stall. Mrs Stevenson and Mrs Brown had so many items that the whole of the meeting room was covered from top to bottom!

Thanks to everyone who handed in baking/cakes. I bought a number myself and thoroughly enjoyed eating them. I don't consider myself to have a sweet tooth but I could quite easily have developed one as some were so delicious.

Thanks to the PARS for donating a signed football. It was delivered on the day of the Fayre and it was so freshly signed that I was frightened to touch the ink.

A big well done to Grace Sinclair and friends for raising £150 for the Good to Give Charity. And well done to the entrepreneurs and their loom band stall. Some great ideas there.

Finally, a big thanks you to all the staff and parents who helped out and gave their support. A special thank you to Mrs Saxton who pulled it altogether. Without her drive and organisation, it wouldn't have happened. She did say she was a 'wee bit tired' afterwards. I'm not surprised.



Christmas Performances

The Christmas performances took place last week. The PIs did their nativity which I thoroughly enjoyed. I've seen many nativities over the years but there is always something a bit special about the PIs doing it for the first time. To see the PIs dressed up as shepherds, angels, donkeys, stars, Mary and Joseph, villagers and Wise Men is always great fun. They did very well and even managed to stay awake for the evening performance.



Christmas Performances (Cont'd)

The older pupils carried out their performances the following day. P2-4 shared their knowledge about 'Christmas Around the World' and sung us some songs and shared some facts about it. P5-7 did 'Christmas Across the Decades' sharing their songs and poems about Christmas from the 1950s onwards and reminding some of us of their childhood Christmases. A big thank you to all the staff who worked so hard to put everything together.

Afterwards Mr Brown and I were discussing how many people attended the performances over the 2 days and we reckon we weren't far off having 800 people in attendance. Numbers are restricted due to Fire Regulations but if the school gets any bigger in future, I'll need to look at this again.

Christmas Parties

The Christmas Parties are now in full swing and by the time you read this will be almost finished. We also have our pantomime 'Cinderella' to take place on the last day in the afternoon to finish the year off with a bang!



Penalty Kick Hotshots

Three boys from P7 took part in the penalty kick Hotshots final at East End Park on Saturday. They finished runners up out of all the schools who had taken part over a number of months. I was very proud of them as they conducted themselves with excellent manners and good sportsmanship over the event. Well done to Rory McMurdo, Niven Birrell and Dylan Barker!

well★done

BBC 500 Words Story Writing Competition

We also had good news about the 500 Words story writing competition run by the BBC. Two pupils, Finlay Curtis (P4/5) and Grace Wale (P3b), got through the first round. I checked up and there were over 135,000 entries this year and only 5,000 got through to the second round. To get through to the 2nd round is incredibly impressive so well done to both pupils.

Santa hopes the Christmas Spirit "lifts you up" this year – It's certainly lifted Mr Humphries Up! Ho Ho Ho...

Merry
Christmas



And finally.....

Well, that's it for another year. Time seems to fly past when you work in a school. There is this pattern to school life where you are always working to deadlines and before you know it, it's Christmas again. However, at this time of year I like to sit back and reflect upon the year gone past. It's funny how the first thing that comes to mind are all the things where I think I should have done better. That's just human nature I guess. However, the school's done well this year. It's the largest it has ever been and once again I expect it to grow next year. There have been lots of successes and it's down to the hard work of everyone associated with the school, but mostly the children. They are our stars and keep us going.

I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

School returns on Thursday 4th January 2024 at 9am.

Regards

S Humphries
Headmaster

