

## *End of Term Round Up*

Christmas is almost upon us, the end of term is nigh and as I sit in my study surrounded by cards and feeling full of good cheer, I want to take a moment to share with you a few memories of the term.

Two highlights of the term 'arrived' recently as the population of Walsall rose by two when Miss Mills celebrated the birth of her beautiful twins, Jonah and Jude. What a wonderful Christmas present for her!

Mayfield Preparatory School is also celebrating the sixth successive year in the Sunday Times League Tables Top 100 Prep Schools. This shows that Mayfield is one of the top prep schools in the Midlands and in the country. Due to our outstanding results in June 2016, I anticipate even better next year!

A great school must have great teachers and I am extremely pleased with the new additions to the teaching staff: Mrs Andrews, Head of English and LIII Form teacher; Mr Johal, Head of ICT and UII Form Teacher; Mrs Pittaway, Head of PE; Mrs Inkster, Head of Humanities and FI Form Teacher; Miss Mallen in Pre-Nursery; and the two new Dinner Supervisors, Mrs Sharpe and Mrs Sedgwick. They have all made an excellent start to their careers at Mayfield and I hope they will continue their good work here for many years to come.

The term got off to a great start with the annual fundraiser, the MacMillan Coffee morning. Thanks to Lower III for a well-organised (and tasty) event and well done to everyone for raising an amazing £800. Children in Need was great fun and we raised an incredible £900 – well done, everyone!

Mrs Petch did us proud with two lovely Harvest Festivals just before half term. Thanks also to our Chair of Governors, June Aubrook, and Mrs Palmer's friend, Sally Griffith, for stepping in at the last minute when our guest speaker let us down. Thanks for all the food donations which went to Birmingham food banks.

Some may have thought we were nuts, but well done to Mr Watts for organising the inaugural Mayfield Conker Championships. Good fun was had by all and congratulations to our winners, Eliza, Anaisha, Teghan, Alfie and Prnay.

We also enjoyed the annual visit by the Young Shakespeare Company, who thrilled us with a dynamic and interactive rendition of MacBeth – 'All hail King Daniel, King of Scotland!'. Thank you to the Governing Body for paying for the visit.

There have been quite a few trips and visits this term. Upper School and Lower School again went to the panto to watch Sleeping Beauty at the Lichfield Garrick. It was incredible and I would highly recommend it if you have spare time during the holidays. Meanwhile, Nursery and Pre-Nursery had a great day at Sycamore Adventure. The Lower III Mathematics teams rose to the challenge at Wrekin College, gaining 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of over 30 schools attending. Mr James' Chess team played brilliantly in the KES Challenge, with 4 players coming 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lower III enjoyed a day out at KES to watch their drama society perform and had a History visit to Blist Hill. Mr Johal took some children to a photography day at KEHS. Lower II had a day out at the Birmingham Art gallery. Form I visited Walsall library and Moseley Old Hall. Form II enjoyed a day out at Leicester museum. Nursery had a 'taster' at Pizza Express. The autumn has seen the introduction of Forest Schools, enjoyed by Kindergarten and Nursery, organised by the fabulous Miss Roberts. Finally, we had a visit from Andi Markham of Kids UK, who, with the help of his friends, Jack and Grandpa, gave us a very important Christmas message about telling the truth and about respect.

Our school sports teams have enjoyed success: football fixtures have been played against West House, Hallfield, Chase Grammar and the Royal, Wolverhampton. In the House Competitions, Livingstone won the House football and Chess, Nightingale won the first ever House Hockey and Scott are the overall winners of the House Merit Cup. Watch this space for further fixtures in rugby, netball, swimming and cross-country organised for next term.

Nursery and Kindergarten collaborated to perform a charming Nativity, called 'The Christmas Story', which really kicked off the festive season in style. In danger of mixing my metaphors, Transition and Form I picked up the baton with a flourish and gave us one of Mayfield's finest Nativities, entitled 'Little Angel gets her wings'. Well done to all the children and staff, particularly Mrs Higgins, Miss Roberts, Mrs Inkster and Mrs Petch on the piano.

As ever, we are extremely grateful to the hardworking members of the PTA. They have organised two highly successful evenings this term: the school disco and the Christmas Fayre. This was a magnificent event and everybody had the most wonderful time last Friday evening. Many thanks go to the PTA and Mayfield staff for all their hard work. Thanks to the popularity of the events and everybody's generosity, valuable funds have been raised for the good of the school, such as the new 'wobbly bridge' in Pre-Nursery and the amazing visit earlier in the term when the school hall was transformed into a Planetarium. Many thanks also to the members of the PTA, who have provided refreshments after all the school performances this term.

The Carol Service at St Matthew's was a fitting finale for the term and for 2016. As always, the children sang their hearts out and the orchestra were particularly fine. Well done to Mrs Petch and Mrs Palmer for giving us such joy at the end of a busy and hardworking term.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to several members of staff. Mrs Waterfield is moving house to somewhere in the farthest reaches of Worcestershire, so after 24 years of outstanding service in the Nursery and supporting children throughout the school, she has decided to move on. I would like to thank her and wish her all the best for the future. Mrs Flanagan will be taking over as SENCO from January. She is a fully qualified and very experienced teacher, who has been SENCO at Great Barr for a number of years. I was very impressed when she came for the day for interview and to teach, and I look forward to working with her in the New Year. No doubt you will also meet her very soon. We are losing Miss Greenhalgh and Mrs H. Higgins for health and personal reasons, but there are two things to cheer about. Firstly, Mrs Millichope, who has already covered in Transition for almost half the term, has committed to teaching in Transition right up to the end of July. She is a very experienced teacher and taught for 22 years at Banners Gate, a well-respected school in Sutton Coldfield. Furthermore, Miss Lyons, who has been covering Art and Design Technology this term, has been appointed as our new Head of Art and Design Technology from January. She is a specialist Art and DT teacher, with many years of experience at Walkwood Middle School in Redditch, where she also led the Art and Technology department. Both teachers have made a very favourable impression with the children and staff this term. I wish all the new staff the very best and I know you will join me in giving them a warm welcome at Mayfield.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Stay safe, enjoy the holiday and I look forward to seeing you all refreshed on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Mr M. Draper  
Headmaster