



# Newsletter - December 2016



## **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

We are delighted to announce that the PTA's Christmas Raffle and Fayre raised £1,135. Thanks for your work and efforts in supporting the PTA in raising such a spectacular sum.



The next event will be a fashion show which takes place on Tuesday 31st January doors open at 7.00pm. Tickets are priced at £5 and will be available from the school office after Christmas.

## **WINTER WEATHER**

We always do our best to make sure that Ballifield stays open throughout the winter. However, if in extreme circumstances a decision is taken to close we will send out a message via our text alert system.



We also inform the Local Radio station of any closures. Please remember that if Ballifield isn't mentioned, or you do not receive a text message, school is open as usual.

Please make sure that the office knows about any changes to your mobile phone number.

## **THANK YOU!**

Once again the shoebox appeal was a great success. Thank you to everyone who contributed, together we collected 48 boxes. The boxes have been collected and will be sent to disadvantaged children across Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.



## **ONESIE DAY**

Thank you to everyone who supported us on Onesie Day. Together with we raised £479 which was split equally between BBC Children in Need and Sheffield Children's Hospital Type 1 Diabetes Appeal.



## **ATTENDANCE**

Our attendance target for this year is 96.6%. We are currently at 96.7%. The national average is 96.6%.

Remember, attendance matters and is crucial to achieving successful outcomes at school and in later life. Your child has a right to an education and to come to school everyday.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER...**

It's been an extremely busy and productive term and I would like to thank the entire school community for their hard work, especially in making all the Christmas performances so enjoyable and successful.

It's with sadness that I have to pass on the news that Mr Plowright has suffered a set back in his recovery process and has undergone further surgery this week. I know you will want to join us in sending him and his family our best wishes during this difficult time. We shall keep you informed about his progress.

It is with very mixed feelings that I need to let you all know that I will be retiring at the end of the school year. Even as I write I simply cannot believe that this is my last year in the profession that I truly love!

It all began in September 1975 when I started my first teaching job at Roe Wood Middle School in Sheffield and I can honestly say that I have "skipped" to work every day since then. Apart from a short while as a head teacher in Rotherham, my entire career has been in Sheffield, where I trained, lived and brought up my children.

It has been a joyous journey, working with incredible colleagues both in schools and within the Local Authority. There have been memorable times in each school where I have worked, but it genuinely feels that I saved the best for last.

I believe that leadership is service and it has been a privilege to serve the children, families and entire staff in our school. They have taught me a lot over the years and deserve my thanks for their hard work and commitment.

I have been ably supported by a very effective staff and governing body who have helped me to make a little bit of a difference here, despite the relentless educational changes, which we have carefully navigated together.

However my decision to retire has been rooted in achieving a balanced way forward, as my husband seems to have already thoroughly enjoyed twenty years plus of his retirement without me! I simply could not let that continue! Time to spoil his fun!

Governors have planned the recruitment process for my successor which will begin in January. In the mean time please accept my best wishes for a peaceful and hopefully restful Christmas break and my very best wishes for 2017.

*Sheila Haigh*

**Ballifield will close for the Christmas break on Friday 16th December at 3.15pm.**

**We re-open to children on Tuesday 3rd January.**