

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and Santa dropped by with loads of goodies?

For me, one of this year's highlights were the children's 'Born in a Barn' Nativity Play, put on by Key Stage 1, and Carol Concerts put on by Key Stage 2.



The children's enthusiasm was infectious, audiences clapped and cheered, performances 'took off' and put us all in the Christmas spirit.

Am already looking forward to next Christmas productions – perhaps I'll see you there?

To turn to a more academic note, we have had some external moderation visits – to see how we're getting along – and it's very pleasing to be able to tell you the Reports have been positive. To have it professionally confirmed we are on the right track is encouraging, both for what we have been doing and to strive ever higher.

**Ofsted:** we know we are overdue an Inspection (the last Inspection was in 2013). Ofsted has markedly tightened its 'Outstanding' criteria meaning it is now a more difficult award to achieve which, in turn, means previously Outstanding schools are being re-graded 'Good'.

There is, though, one area that Ofsted looks at which is under parental control rather than school - **Attendance**. The National Attendance Average is 96% and we are expected to at least achieve it. The weekly Newsletter tells us which classes that week have had the best attendance and how the whole school has performed. In recent weeks we have been slightly below the National 96% target, meaning children miss out on their education. I ask all parents to think very carefully before keeping children off school.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2024.

Best wishes,

*Nick Lacey*

Chair of Governors