

# Parents Newsletter - issue 81

End of Autumn Term 2017

## Children in Need

On Friday 17 November, Sunshine House went back in time to the 80's to raise money for Children in Need. An 80's pop quiz to guess the name of the song, the artist and bonus points for year, had staff reminiscing and students bopping along to the music. The answers were revealed in our action packed assembly, that included 'chuck it in the button' for all loose change and a shoulder pad competition on a vintage 80's blazer with sponges! Students decorated bears with spots and accessorised them in 80's style and went on a spotty 80's treasure hunt to find toys, music, film and fashion of the decade. Yummy spotty cakes were also on sale to raise money for the event. Thank you to all for supporting this event. A wonderful £225.70 was raised.

## FOSH Bingo

Friday 17 November saw our second Sunshine House Bingo night. There were lots of fabulous prizes to be won and with our fantastic Bingo Caller Mary lots of fun was had. The night was a great success seeing us raise £440 for FOSH and an extra £40 for children in need which was amazing! Thank you to everyone who came and supported this event and a big thank you to everyone who helped make it a great night. I look forward to hosting another one in 2018 hopefully seeing lots more of you there for 'Eyes Down'!

## Musical Visitors for Christmas

Sunshine House have been really fortunate to have not one, but two bands in to play for us! We were first joined by a Jazz band that played many of our favourite Christmas hits and got us into the festive spirit! The following day we had St Johns School Band come in to play Christmas Carols for us and to demonstrate their wonderful array of different instruments. We really enjoy and appreciate all the bands who come and play for us here at Sunshine House.

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## **Christmas Assembly**

This year's Christmas Assembly was once again a fantastic example of the community engagement of Sunshine House with parents, friends and children from Grangewood School joining in the festivities. Willow class from Holy Trinity also sang the carol 'Christmas is here' beautifully. The children of Sunshine House performed a very special version of 'Mr Stick Man's nativity' which was creatively written by Nick and brilliantly accompanied by music and sounds by Mark and Caroline. It was a truly interactive experience with the audience participating in singing, clapping and playing snowballs! All the classes performed a specific part of the story and as with all good nativities the performance finished with the whole school singing 'Away in a Manger'. A huge thank you to the staff and children at Sunshine House for making this assembly so special!

## **Musical Theme Day**

On Monday 11 December we were treated to some seasonal weather and a visit from Tim and Tom. Tim and Tom entertained us with some of their familiar songs and introduced some new elements too. We had rolling rainbows, a light loving unicorn, and a giant vibrating balloon to name but a few.

All the children enjoyed themselves and the day finished with a finale of festive tunes which we shared with the school bus drivers and escorts.

## **Christmas Extravaganza**

Although the weather was a little unkind, our latest extravaganza went well. Our first experience was one of wizards, scary staff photos, witches hats and broomsticks. We trailed through the "Great Hall" to the music from Harry Potter. Spongebob Square Pants and his friends lit up our UV section, revealing brightly coloured fish and plenty of bubbles. Moving on back into the light, The Stick Family with their tree house greeted them with a snowy scene and cold snow to feel. Entering the hall we met Mr and Mrs Santa Claus in their cosy lounge. Santa chatted to the children and gave them all a small gift. The sound of a donkey braying outside led everyone to meet the rest of the animals. To get to our last place to visit we had to pass a snowy walkway. Toy Story was our theme. Slinky the dog, Buzz Lightyear, Woody were all there for us to enjoy. Enjoyment for all!!

## **Ruislip Manor Library Trip**

On Thursday 14 December some of the children went to Ruislip Manor library for a festive story and singing session. The library staff read us several Christmassy stories and we joined in with singing some favourite and some new Christmas songs. Father Christmas made a visit and chatted to all the children.

Pine Class had a fabulous trip to Van Hage Garden centre in Chorleywood on Monday. We were very pleased because we had originally wanted our trip to be on the 12 December but that would have been a 'snow day'..phew!

After much scraping and heating up the mini bus we were off. Two fantastic drivers made the journey extremely smooth. The staff at the garden centre were very accommodating, providing us with a quiet room to have our morning snack and recharge our batteries.

We loved all of the wind chimes especially the one that made a deep sound, the vibrations were amazing they resonated through our hands as we touched them.

There were lots of lovely scented candles and Christmas decorations to put us in a festive mood. Our favourite part of the trip was our visit to see Santa in his grotto. Actually he told us that he preferred to be called Father Christmas. He had such a good sense of humour; he took his time to meet and greet each of the children and gave a lot of thought to the gift that would suit them best.

He made us laugh when he described one of the gifts as 'squishy, squelchy and squashy.

We had a filling lunch in the café before one last look around the shop and then back on the bus for our journey back to school.

The added bonus was that the sun was shining and everyone kept warm. We will definitely be going back to Van Hage Garden Centre again.

## **Christmas Gifts**

RNIB have sent home a gift for each pupil at the school and they have also received Christmas gifts and chocolates from some of our regular donors. We hope they enjoy them.

We had a lovely assembly for Christie, who after 12 years will be leaving Sunshine House School to study at pastures new. We wish her all the very best in her new environment and will miss her greatly.

**Last Day of Term 20 December**  
**Children leave at 1.15pm**

Please find attached a letter from Jackie Seaman, Head of School

All the Staff at Sunshine House would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Children and Staff Return to School**  
**Wednesday 3 January 2018**