

Dear Parent / Carer,

The second half of the term started with a busy first week and a visit from an HMI inspector at short notice. This week is just as busy!

On Monday the Tag Rugby team competed in the inter-school competition and did really well to progress against some stiff opposition.

Maggie Cambell (artist) was back at Firside on Tuesday and Wednesday, creating clay faces with Yr 3. We are looking forward to putting these up on the hall wall, along with all the others.



The Bake Sale for Children in Need had absolutely *fantastic* support from everyone, on Thursday the school council have asked me to thank everyone for all their help. So far £260 has been raised – and we still have some cakes to sell at break today.



David Mason (storyteller/poet/author) was also back in school on Thursday and Friday to work (mainly) with the younger children. And also on Friday we had something totally different with the *Lego Town Building* experience – a complete town being constructed in the Hall!

A busy week!

### HMI Inspection

In the last newsletter, we reported how well the children had done in last year's Year 6 tests. This month we can tell you that we have had a very positive outcome to an HMI inspection last Wednesday! We are really pleased that the inspector judged that we have made good progress in addressing our key issues and that in most areas the improvement is rapid and sustained. He considers that as a result, pupils are reaching higher standards and making better progress. He confirmed that the proportion of children reaching expected, or better, levels was greater than the national average – and that there is an upward trend in attainment. Pupil progress from KS1 is generally in-line with national expectations and it accelerates as children move up through the school. He judged our assessment to be accurate and reliable, thereby confirming that progress from the beginning of Year 3 is 'good' (100% made at least 2 levels progress from this starting point).

We now move on to the next phase which is to make the further improvements we have planned, achieve complete consistency across the school – and to prepare for an inspection next year. A copy of the report will be made available on the school website.

### Christmas Concerts

This year we will be presenting an evening in aid of the Charity "Shelter". It will involve singing, drama and a variety of presentations from each year group to make an enjoyable entertainment for parents to come and share with the children. As in previous years there will be performances at 1:30pm and 6:30pm and letters about ticket allocation will be sent out shortly along with further details. The intention is that it will be a whole school event which everyone will take part in. (Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Year 3 & Year 5, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Year 4 & Year 6).

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## Charity Fundraising

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**Harvest Festival:** We received a lovely letter from Hazel Sommerville (Salvation Army) thanking us for everyone's generosity. Hazel led a school assembly and each year group contributed by an oral storytelling or recitation of a poem – all with a chocolate theme. Thank you again for your support.

**Bake Sale:** Thank you to supporting the School Council's Bake Sale (many thanks to FOF who helped the children run the event). We will let you know how much has been raised for Children in Need once we have counted up.

**Christmas Appeal:** We would like to support Buckingham Emergency Food Appeal (BEFA) as usual. For those who don't know, this local charity collects bags of sugar which they then supply to homeless people and to night-shelters and hostels. We would like to start collecting in December and will send you more information nearer the time.

## Diary Dates

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### November

Wednesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	Y6 visiting Sainsbury Centre
Monday	26 <sup>th</sup>	Anti Bullying Theatre group in school
Tuesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 Newspaper Day
Friday	30 <sup>th</sup>	FOF Freedom from Uniform Day (details sent separately)

### December

Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee & Chat (Dining Hall)	9am
Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Fair (volunteers needed!)	10am – 12pm
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concerts Y3 & Y5	1.30 & 6.30pm
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concerts Y4 & Y6	1.30 & 6.30pm
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas lunch (details sent separately)	
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup>	Last day of term	

### January 2013

Tuesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	First day of spring term
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## FRIENDS of FIRSIDE



FOF need as many people as possible to help with the Christmas Fair. It takes place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 10am to 12pm though we need people from 9am to help set up and to approx. 1pm to help clear up.

Please sign up to do your bit (anything from 30 minutes to an hour) at the office – Thank you!

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