

TO ALL PARENTS FROM THE HEADMASTER

This term has been a very busy one, not least because, as you know, we had a school inspection just before half-term. A copy of the School Inspectors report has already been sent to every family via 'ParentMail'.

The Music Department had a very successful Eisteddfod. Both the Pre-Prep C Choir and the Chamber Choir (Forms 5 and 6) received Silver Certificates for their performances; the Junior Choir (Forms 1 and 2) won the 'Connetable de St Helier' Trophy and the Senior Choir (Forms 3 and 4) received a Gold certificate and won the 'Dean Gross' Trophy. In the French section of the Eisteddfod the children were also very successful, winning five cups and a number of certificates including 17 Golds, 37 Silvers and 9 Bronze. Well done to everyone who took part in the Eisteddfod.

The annual sports tour to Port Regis in England took place just before half-term with matches against Ballard School, Hordle Walhampton and Port Regis, whilst there the children enjoyed a visit to Longleat Safari Park. Senior girls and boys teams also travelled to Guernsey for Football and Hockey matches against Guernsey Schools.

Locally, the U11A Netball team have been successful, winning all six of their league matches to top the Division Four League table and become overall winners.

The Pre-Prep and Nursery Departments gave parents and relatives a real treat with their Nativity performances: Pre-Prep B and C presented 'The Smallest Angels', Pre-Prep A's performance was entitled 'Busy Busy Bethlehem', and the Nursery gave a delightful performance of 'Whoops-A-Daisy Angel' and sang Christmas songs.

We finished the term with our traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols, once again held in our Sports Hall. It was good to see so many parents, friends and relatives at the Service. At the end of the service a collection was taken in aid of the **Home of Hope Orphanage** in Malawi. Thank you to everyone for your kind generosity.

Home of Hope Orphanage: Mr and Mrs Hugh Cathcart, parents in school, visited the Home of Hope last summer and have developed a link with the foundation. If there are any parents or friends who might like to become involved in this very worthwhile project, please contact Sharon Cathcart via the school office. You may recall from the October Half-Term Newsletter that Sharon has been collecting old uniform, sports equipment and similar articles in support of the orphanage and would like to remind you that she would welcome any contributions that you may have.

Donations to Charity: This term St Michael's has raised a magnificent sum for a variety of charities. **Readathon.** The children in Forms 1 - 6 raised £4,505 for Sargent Cancer Care for Children and The Roald Dahl Foundation. The **Christmas Sale** raised an amazing £17,500, which has been donated to Jersey Hospice Care, BBC Children in Need and the General Hospital's Special Care Baby Unit. A special thank you in particular to one of our parents, Mrs Karen Clarke, who as you know so ably assisted Mr McAviney in the organising of this year's sale. Thanks also to parents, pupils and staff for all your contributions and support in making this year's sale such an outstanding success.

Health Matters: I would like to remind parents that if your child should suffer with sickness or diarrhoea, they should **not return to school until 48 hours have elapsed after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.**

'Off games': May I remind parents that requests for a child to miss his/her PE lesson should be in the **form of a letter from parents please.**

Reading: I should like to remind parents of children in Forms 3 to 6, that the children should read a minimum of two books during the holidays. The English Department have requested that children in Forms 3, 4 and 5 should **write a review of one of the books, which should be handed in at the start of next term.** Perhaps this would be a good opportunity for the children to practise their typing skills on the computer.

Parents' Evenings: Pre-Prep and Forms 1 and 2 evenings will take place on **Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st March 2012.**

Parents' Evenings: Forms 4 and 5 will take place on **Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th March 2011.**

Please note: May I remind you that **once appointments have been issued it may not be possible to offer you an alternative day or time.** With this in mind if you know that you are unable to make a particular evening, please let the office know as soon as possible.

Lent Term Examinations (Form 6 only): These will take place from **Monday 27th to Wednesday 29th February inclusive.** Please do **not make medical or other appointments** for your children during this period.

After-School Clubs: Netball, Football Clubs will recommence in the second week of next term ie, Monday 16th January 2012. **Gym Club will also recommence in the second week with a new group of pupils.** (Information will be sent separately).

Swimming Club does not resume until after the Lent Half-Term and new lists will be sent home next term.

Morning Minibus: This service will resume on **Wednesday 11th January 2012.** Please ensure your child is on time for the pickup. The driver has been instructed to keep to time.

School Office: The school office will close on Wednesday 21st December and will re-open on Wednesday 4th January.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Richard de Figueiredo
Headmaster

December 2011

Severe Winter Weather Conditions:

In the event of heavy snow fall you are advised to listen to Radio Jersey, Radio 103, telephone the school diary (852649), telephone the normal school number (856904 after 7.45 am) and /or check the website for information. After taking the appropriate advice it may be that we will open school, but for a 10.00 am start rather than 8.40 am. **With this in mind you will receive a text message (via ParentMail) advising you of the situation.** In the event of severe winter weather, it is of course, your decision to remain at home if you are uncomfortable about driving in snow.

Richard de Figueiredo
Headmaster