

## CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS

You are all invited to join us for the following Christmas activities:

The first one is the **Key Stage 1** (Yr 1 & 2) Christmas production of *'The Wriggly Nativity'* which will take place on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December** in the school hall at **9:30am**.

The **Key Stage 2** (Yr 3-6) Christmas production of *'The Match Girl's Christmas'* will be on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** in the school hall at **9:30am**.

The **Foundation Stage** (Nursery and Reception) Christmas production of *'Christmas Angels'* will take place on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** in the school hall at **9:30am**.

Our final event is our **Christingle Service**. This will take place at **St. Peter's Church** on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December** at **9:30am**.

We hope that as many of you as possible are able to come and join us for all of these festive celebrations, and we look forward to seeing you.

## PADDINGTON



Well, what can we say about the whole Paddington Experience?

## **IT WAS ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC!**

Off we set, Years 1 - 6, early last Thursday morning with great excitement on each of the four coaches, eager to get to Didsbury in the rush hour traffic - we didn't want to miss a second of what promised to be a great film. We needn't have worried; we arrived in plenty of time to have a snack, a drink and a toilet visit before we went in.

Never before have so many children sat so quietly in a cinema. From the moment the film started to the very end everyone sat totally transfixed by the story of Paddington, his family in Peru and his adopted family in England. We won't tell you anymore of the story in case you want to go to see it for yourselves.

When we came out of the cinema everyone, staff and children alike were buzzing with excitement at what they had just watched and also because we were going to have a McDonalds for lunch. Have you any idea how many big boxes there are to carry 200 Happy Meals? Suffice to say, the vehicle that they were transported in smells of McDonalds still!!! Everyone tucked in with great gusto, little did they know that the treats didn't end there. Mrs Camp and Mrs Yoxall decorated a cupcake for each child with a Paddington picture on it.

As if that wasn't enough the children also got to have a slice of an absolutely stunning Paddington cake which was very kindly made for us by Boyan and Elitsa's

mummy Mrs Trandeva-Georgieva. Just have a look at the photograph overleaf ....



You can take our word for it; the cake tasted every bit as good as it looked!

We are sure that you would like to join with us to take this opportunity to thank Vanda for taking the time to produce this lovely cake for us.

We must also give a huge thank you to the Friends of Marlfields for contributing £1000 towards the cost of this visit.

## SANTA & STEAM

On Wednesday of this week, yet another coach full of excited children (and grown-ups) left Marlfields. This time it was the turn of the Nursery and Reception class who were going to the Churnet Valley Railway to have a ride on an original steam train and enjoy a traditional Victorian style Christmas.

When the children arrived at the station they were greeted by the railway

volunteers who were all dressed in Victorian style clothes to set the scene.

The children were then showed to their First Class carriages which were all festooned with garlands and decorations. Then with a blow of a whistle and a toot from the train off they went for a beautiful ride through the Staffordshire countryside.

It seemed that almost as soon as the train had left the station Victorian ladies and gentlemen visited each carriage to give the children a drink of juice and a chocolate bar. The grown-ups got a treat too, they had a mince pie and a drink - which was very welcome! No sooner had



these been consumed when along came a clown who very patiently made each and every child a balloon animal!

Then came the main event, a certain gentleman wearing a red and white outfit, big black boots and a snowy white beard, that's right, SANTA!

He spoke to every child, asking them if they had been good



and what they would like for Christmas. Some of the children were in awe of the spectacle and could barely talk to him. As he left the carriage each child was given a lovely gift wrapped present which they eagerly opened.

Before we knew it, we were back at the station and getting back on the coach for

an eventful journey back to school. The excitement must have got to the children as on the journey back a few of the children were travel sick. No matter how ill they might have been feeling, they still managed to eat a Santa decorated cupcake which was provided by Mrs Camp and Mrs Yoxall.

## BAD WEATHER

With severe weather warnings now being issued by the Met. Office please tune your radio to **Silk F.M. on 106.9** to check if for reasons of bad weather Marlfields is closed.

You will also be sent a text message confirming that school is closed or if school is closing early.

If you have not received any of the text messages that have been sent out recently, please call into the school office to check that we hold the correct telephone number for you.

## MARLFIELDS NURSERY

The governors of Marlfields Academy would like to advise you of some important and exciting changes for our Nursery.

For many years, our nursery has been successfully run as a pre-school, providing an excellent, early-years facility for children from the age of three. Many of the children attending our Academy now, from Reception through to Year 6, will have begun their Marlfields journey in the Nursery. I'm sure they will have enjoyed the time they spent there, making new friends and

learning new skills under the guidance of our dedicated and friendly staff.

However, time moves forward and so must we!

As you all know, 2014 has been a year of change for Marlfields, most notably the change in our status from a school to an Academy. What you may not know is that as an Academy, the funding for our nursery and mainstream school come from different sources, and therefore we must run them as separate businesses.

This change has prompted the Trustees of the Academy into a detailed review of our Nursery and a new business plan has been developed.

So, what are we going to change?

From the beginning of the new term in January 2015:

- Our Nursery will be known as Marlfields Nursery & Day-care Centre.
- As well as continuing to offer 3 year old places we are now able to offer a high quality education for children from the age of two.
- We continue to be able to offer free 15 hour per week placements for eligible 2 and 3 year old children.
- We will extend our opening hours so that we can offer a full day-care service for all our Nursery children, including two year olds.
- We will have a wonderful new outside play area. The new early-years playground is expected to be finished early in the January.

Additionally, we are currently investigating how we can extend the day-care centre service so that we can be open during school holidays, bringing us in line with other providers of day care services.

Our ultimate goal is to maintain the very high standards we have consistently achieved, while we develop the nursery into the most sought after day-care centre in Congleton.

We will soon begin a marketing campaign aimed at improving awareness of the new nursery arrangements, and increasing the number of children we care for, but we wanted to be sure that all our existing parents were aware of these developments before we make them known to the general public.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the Nursery's past successes and congratulate Mrs Bennett and her small team for having the nursery looking so vibrant and stimulating. It really does look fantastic at the moment, but don't take our word for it - pop in and have a look round!

Further bulletins providing more detailed information will be sent out soon, however if you are already looking for a nursery for a child, or know of someone who is, please contact the office and they will arrange either a viewing or an appointment for you.

If you have a child that is two years old, you may be entitled to funding to help towards nursery costs. The Governors of Marlfields Academy are happy to give you advice on this or you can visit:

[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/children\\_and\\_families/early\\_years\\_and\\_childcare.aspx](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/children_and_families/early_years_and_childcare.aspx)

Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries, or are considering a nursery for your little one - we will be happy to help.

Thank you and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Paul Hibbitt

On behalf of the Directors and Trustees of Marlfields Academy.

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER**

We would like to remind you that next Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, is Christmas Dinner Day for the children.

## **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

The last day in school before we break for the Christmas Holiday is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December. We will finish at the usual time of 3:20pm.

We return to school on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January have been designated as INSET Days for staff.

