



Dear Parents

They say time flies when you are having fun and I think that rings true of this term at school. So many things have happened: children have enjoyed extra-curricular activities including music, drama, dance and cooking. School Council have been very active in deciding how to develop the school playground. We have visited the Vrije School for a performance by the Classic Fairytale Company and been visited here at school by several visitors including our friends at the Van Liefland School as well as friends in the community from the Salvation Army and the local church. The school has been decorated for Christmas and even with the snow falling we are very busy with the final preparations for our Christmas Lunch and the end of term.

This year's Christmas production was certainly one to remember- the singing was outstanding, especially with so many solo singers thanks to the enthusiasm and attention to detail on the part of Mrs Kuijper. The children and staff in Key Stage 1 worked incredibly hard to tell the wonderful story of the Sleepy Shepherd. It was a real team effort with lots going on backstage, so well done cast and crew! Alongside all the preparations for our own production in school some of our pupils and parents were involved in this year's NAMATEURS pantomime, 'Rapunzel' written and directed by Jo Brigham. Many of our families enjoyed watching the pantomime and it was very evident in the success of the performances how much hard work went into the play.

To think that we began the term with a whole school inspection it is no wonder we suddenly find ourselves looking ahead to the New Year. Yesterday you received some information about the Brede School activity programme which will be available to our pupils in the New Year. Please take time to have a look at what is on offer and come and ask for help at school if you need it.

We are also very much looking forward to Helen Sharman's visit and showing her all the wonderful things we have done since her last visit for our opening in 2008.

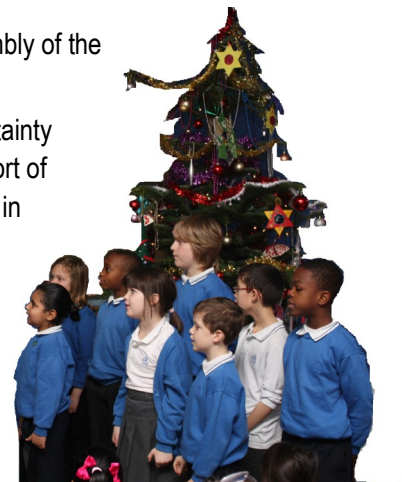
Tomorrow we will say goodbye to the Mohd. Arriffin and Elashmawy families in our final assembly of the term at 11.30. All parents are welcome. I hope to see you there.

I appreciate that the past few months have been a difficult time for many of you with the uncertainty surrounding the Shell re-organisation and I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the school. I hope that the news expected this week is positive for you and your families. Here in school we will continue to look ahead and to ensure that we provide a safe, happy and stable environment for your children.

On behalf of all the staff I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year 2010.

Yours sincerely,

Michala Warner



**Ice skating at "de Bonte Wever" (De Smelt)**

This Saturday, 19 December, from 14:00 till 16:00 there will be free ice skating for pupils from Year 2 onwards. Older brother and sisters are also welcome. It is possible to hire skates but easier if you bring your own. From 14:00 onwards there will ice-skating lessons given by instructors.



**Songs around the Christmas Tree**

On Monday we were joined again by children from the Van Liefland School, a local special school, for our concert of Christmas songs which we sing around the Christmas tree. The children sang beautifully and our guest children joined in

for a few of the songs. One of the children brought a painting as a thank you gift. We will display this in school. Many

| Key Dates |  |
|-----------|--|
| 17 Dec.   | Grade cards out<br>Christmas lunch                         |
| 18 Dec.   | Autumn term ends at 12:00                                  |
| 19 Dec.   | Ice skating at "de Bonte Wever" skating rink (14:00-16:00) |
| 5 Jan.    | Spring term begins   |

thanks to Brunhilde Kuijper for organising the event and to Jacki Donnellan for playing the piano for us.

**Art Workshop**

Last Friday, Y5/6 were joined by last year's Y6 pupils, now at Maartens College, for the art workshop which was a prize for our work last year with the Van Liefland School. The children clearly enjoyed being together again and worked well on the project presented by two local professional artists. Our ex-pupils also stayed for our Golden Assembly, in which a local vicar told the Christmas story and gave all children an angel as a memento.



**Christmas Lunch**

Today the children were treated to another unforgettable traditional Christmas lunch. The food was delicious and the atmosphere, as always when we're all together on these occasions, was magical. This was only possible due to the help of parents who peeled sprouts, scraped carrots and roasted potatoes. A special thank you to Helen Shorter for

helping to organise the lunch and for taking responsibility for the meat, Yorkshire puddings and sauces.

**Social Work in our School**

Is my child happy? What can I do about my child's challenging behaviour? My child suffers from fear of failure, how can I help? My partner and I are having some problems, what are the consequences for my child?

This is a short list of some of the many questions I come across as a school social worker. After all, which parent has never had questions regarding the upbringing of their child?

There are lots of good ways to look for help with questions like this. You can surf the net, read books about raising children, ask friends for advice, and so on. One option which you may not have thought of is the school social worker. People often think that the problems have to be really serious before you contact the social worker. Fortunately this is not the case. I support parents and children with all sorts of questions or difficulties.

If you have any questions or you would like to make an appointment, you can ring me at my office (0592 343243) or send an e-mail to [hoekman@noordermaat.nl](mailto:hoekman@noordermaat.nl). You can also ask Sue Beattie to help you to make an appointment.

With kind regards,

*Hilko Hoekman, NoorderMaat*

