

# HEATHSIDE NEWS

NOVEMBER 2009

## Christmas Cards

If you haven't bought your Christmas cards yet we still have a few available in school at a cost of 50p each. They are beautiful cards, based on designs by pupils, and would be ideal for that special relative or friend.



## SNOW!!

Fortunately we have not had any severe weather as yet this year, but if it does snow the school may have to close. In this eventuality an announcement will be made in the morning on [Radio Suffolk](#) or [SGR](#) and on [our website](#). If the school needs to close early during the day we will contact parents and carers individually to organise for children to be received at home. Please make sure we have up to date contact details.

## CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS

The shops have been full of decorations, cards etc for ages now so Christmas must be on the way. The staff and children are gearing up for rehearsals, props are being made so it's time to let you know what is happening and when.

The Upper Team production of "A Tardis Adventure" will take place on Tuesday 15th December at 10.00 a.m. and the Lower Team production of "Hallelujah" will take place on Wednesday 16th December at 10.00 a.m. You are



Invited to attend the production that your child will be in and if you are coming please use the backdoor and be in your seat by 9.45 a.m.

Once again we are using the services of a professional video company to film both productions. Moving Memories will film on both days and will produce a professionally edited film of the productions that you can purchase if you wish. Both productions will be included on the DVD. You will soon receive an order form and if you would like to order a DVD please fill it in and send it back to school with a cheque for £15. The quality of the video produced last year was, once again, excellent and many parents and carers commented on how pleased they were with it. Moving Memories will try to make the DVD available before we break up for Christmas but as there is only two days for them to produce and print them they can not guarantee this. All orders need to be made in advance of the performances and accompanied by the appropriate payment.

In case I don't see you before the end of term can I be perhaps the first to wish you a very Merry Christmas on behalf of all the staff at Heathside.

## Christmas Activities

The children will be involved in a variety of different activities during the coming weeks. Most groups will visit Fr. Christmas in his grotto at the Virgo (previously Co-oo) and some classes will make other trips out in the run-up to the end of term. Our Christmas lunch is on 17<sup>th</sup> December and if your child would like a school dinner on that day, but does not normally have one, just send in £2.00 on 14<sup>th</sup> December in an envelope marked "Christmas Lunch". Classes will be having individual parties during the final week and we will finish the term with a Carol Service for pupils and staff on 18<sup>th</sup> December..



## Dates for your Diary

15<sup>th</sup> December – A Tardis Adventure  
16<sup>th</sup> December - Hallelujah!  
17<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas lunch  
18<sup>th</sup> December – End of term  
4<sup>th</sup> January 2010 - Staff training day  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2010 – Children return to school

## New Minibus

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the various fundraising initiatives that we had during the year. We have now raised enough for a new minibus and an order was placed earlier this term. Unfortunately, due to the economic downturn the factory that produces the chassis for the minibus has been on short-time working so the company that actually builds the vehicle to our specification cannot complete it until the end of January 2010.

### *Merger with Belstead*

The latest meeting of the joint governing body committee with responsibility for managing the merger of the two schools took place on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Proposals about a leadership structure and a staffing structure were discussed but no decisions were made because advice is being sought from the Local Authority Human Resources department.

A process for deciding the name of the merged school was agreed and a competition will be held in January to identify suggestions.

A shortlist will be drawn up and then put to a vote to decide the winner. Parents and carers and staff from both schools will be eligible to make nominations and to vote. Heathside governors are legally obliged to make the final decision and will do this at their spring term meeting.

Heathside's governing body has agreed, with the Local Authority, to increase its membership from 12 to 15 to allow some of Belstead's governors to join the governing body that will be responsible for the merged school.

### *Special Toys Educational Postal Service*

STEPS is an organisation that provides adapted battery operated toys and switches for children with disabilities free of charge and on long term loans.

Switches vary in size and complexity, from a voice box that operates the toy by sound, to a tiny switch about the size of a box of matches. Toys and switches are sent to children under 16 years of age anywhere in the UK.

For information contact: STEPS, St Francis, 7 Chatto Road, Torquay, Devon, TQ1 4HT Telephone: 01803 311322.

Email: [stepsorg@fsmail.net](mailto:stepsorg@fsmail.net)

Web: [www.stepcharity.org](http://www.stepcharity.org)



### *Fund Raising*

Thank you to everyone who has helped us in our recent fundraising efforts.

Our Children in Need activities raised £83.93 and it was wonderful to see Pudsey Bear touring around the eight classes of the school on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

Thank you also to everyone who made donations to our link special school in Gambia, Hart House. We raised £250 and we aim to offer more support through the proceeds of the raffles at our Christmas Productions.

### *School Uniform*

Teresa will be putting an order in for items of school uniform before the end of term.

If you need any replacement items please give Teresa a call and let her know what you want or ask for an order form.

### *Christmas Ideas*

If you are stuck for ideas for Christmas then you might find some inspiration at the following websites:

[www.amusica.co.uk/acatalog/special-needs-toys.html](http://www.amusica.co.uk/acatalog/special-needs-toys.html)

[www.tfhuk.com](http://www.tfhuk.com)

[www.smartstart-toys.co.uk/sitemap/Special\\_Needs\\_Toys.html](http://www.smartstart-toys.co.uk/sitemap/Special_Needs_Toys.html)

### *Challenging Behaviour Foundation*

This is a charitable organisation that has been set up to provide support to parents and carers of children with challenging behaviours and severe learning difficulties.

They provide free resources to families including:

- DVDs
- Information sheets
- Newsletter
- Website
- Telephone/email support

More information about what is on offer can be found at:

[www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk](http://www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk)

The Foundation also looks to link families for mutual support and has email networks for parents and professionals to exchange information, share good practice and offer support.

### *Year 6 Parents*

Belstead School will be sending you invites to a Coffee Morning on December 9th. This will give you an opportunity to see some of the facilities and meet a few of the staff