



Cranborne Middle School

A Specialist School

Headteacher: Mr C Watson
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs K Robertson



9 December 2011

Dear Parent / Carer

We're now well into December and only a week left to go. I'm not quite sure where the term goes – it seems like only a few weeks ago that the new year 5s joined us and now, already, they've got a whole term under their belts.

Adverse Weather - It would appear that winter is closing in on us with some of the more northern parts of the country experiencing snow and with forecasts of further cold and wintery weather on the horizon. I would like to remind parents and advise new parents of the procedures in the event of snowfall in and around our local area.

School closure is a very difficult decision to make and it is not one that I take lightly. Being a rural school with most children being transported by bus and car, our circumstances are very different to that of town schools where the children can walk to school. The ability to journey safely to and from school is of paramount importance for pupils and staff as well as their ability to move around the site without coming to any harm.

As we are reliant on bus companies, in the event of snowfall, they are contacted to establish whether they will be running their service. They make initial judgements around 6am, however, it is often very difficult for them to say for sure that they will be able to carry out their route until the buses try to access some of the minor roads. This can lead to some buses abandoning their pickups mid-route. When the decision to close is taken, this is registered with the Local Authority who broadcast this on their website. You can see the list of school closures on the Dorset website by typing the following address: mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices/schools. All radio stations have been advised that it is their responsibility to log onto the Local Authority website to update their school closures broadcast on air and on their websites. This is no longer the responsibility of the schools. Don't forget that information about the closure of our school also appears on our own school website. Rest assured that we will always endeavour to keep the school open as long as it continues to be safe to do so for the children and staff.

Christmas Fayre - Thank you to everyone who supported the CMS Christmas Fayre organised by the Parent Teacher Association. Held last Friday, we saw a fabulous turn out made up of pupils, ex-pupils, parents, teachers and community members. There was a lovely atmosphere and I am delighted to report that we raised £3142.42. This is a fabulous amount for which, on behalf of the school, I would like to thank all of you as I know how financially challenging the current climate is. The PTA will now work closely with us here at school to discuss how the money might be spent.

Carol Service - Monday 12th December is our carol service in Cranborne Church. Starting at 6.30pm, doors open at 6pm. It would be lovely to see you there. A collection will be made at the end of the service which will go to the church's nominated charity for December, Julia's House Children's Hospice.

Staff Changes - It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to two of our teachers at the end of this term – Mrs Williams (Humanities Teacher) and Mr Cottrell (Science Teacher).

Mr Cottrell has been at CMS since 1994 as specialist teacher of science in both KS2 and KS3. As curriculum leader for science, in partnership with other middle/upper school colleagues, he has supported and encouraged pupils to challenge their scientific thinking and develop their understanding throughout the middle years. He has also surprised children with his many talents beyond the classroom whether they be his Abba singing tribute, windsurfing at Calshot, capsizing near Salcombe, climbing in the Lake District or his French bingo on the Yr8 trip! Mr Cottrell has been a Yr8 and Yr7 tutor, run extra-curricular school clubs and acted as a teacher-governor as well as a member of the PTA.

Mrs Williams started life at CMS as a teaching assistant before completing teacher training and returning to CMS in 2001 as a year 5 tutor and teacher of Humanities in 2001. During her time with us, Mrs Williams has been a valued member of staff involving herself in many areas of the curriculum and beyond, contributing significantly to the development of history and geography as Leader of Humanities. In this role, Mrs Williams demonstrated excellent leadership skills taking the school through a Geography Subject Ofsted inspection in 2008. She has also given generously of her time to organise/lead and support many day and residential visits and clubs.

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On behalf of all of us at CMS, I would like you to join us in offering both of them our very best wishes for the future and thank them for their enthusiasm, commitment and contributions to the education and school life of the children during their time at CMS.

Due to an over-generous staff:pupil ratio, we are able to absorb the teaching commitments of Mr Cottrell and Mrs Williams with the redeployment of some of the remaining teachers. Collaboration time between departing and replacement teachers has already been put in place to ensure continuity for all children and that these staff changes do not affect children's learning and progress. Rest assured we remain focused on the development and support of your child, both academically and pastorally.

Yours sincerely

C. Watson
Headteacher

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