



Newsletter



Murray Park
School

December 2014

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to our Christmas newsletter! This week is a really busy week at Murray Park where we are currently in the throes of our Christmas celebrations at school with many festive activities including our Christmas: charity Café, Concert, Jumper Day, dinners, sporting events, trips and performances. This rounds off what has been an excellent year for us. I have had many reasons to be really proud of our staff and students throughout the year for their hard work and enthusiasm and am excited about the next phase of our development as we work towards ensuring that Murray Park is an 'Outstanding' school in all regards.

Since I arrived at Murray Park I've been struck by the leadership and concern for others shown by our students. This term has been no different, with students raising well over a thousand pounds this term for various charities – all with ideas for helping others that originated in the student body and with some activities yet to come. This is particularly impressive at this time of year as our students have donated enough gifts to be able to send 66 boxes to Operation Christmas Child as well as raising the money it costs to send them. We are looking to improve the way that we communicate with parents after Christmas. We will produce regular bulletins and distribute them by email and on the website as well as the termly newsletters. I would be grateful if you could let our school office have a copy of your most recent email address (email - student.services@murraypark.derby.sch.uk) as this will help us to get newsletter and updates out to you.

If you do drop off and pick up your children from school please try and do so on Brisbane Road, avoiding the congested area on Murray Road and Earlswood Drive. We have made the Local Authority aware that we are concerned about the build-up of traffic in this area but would really appreciate your support in avoiding these at the start and end of the day.

We will have our traditional Christmas finish this year with our end of year assembly and students finishing at around 12.30pm on Friday 19th December. We return to school on Monday 5th January 2015 starting at the usual time of 8.35am.

Finally our annual Christmas Concert takes place on Wednesday 17th December at 6pm in Cedar Park Hall. I hope that you are able to come along and support this event. Tickets are available to buy from Student Services in advance or on the door on the night.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Many thanks for your support throughout this term.

Yours sincerely

Mr M. Owen
Headteacher

Merry
Christmas

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Did you know:

- Christmas Concert is on Wednesday 17th December
- Break up for Christmas on Friday 19th December at 12:30pm
- Return to school on Monday 5th January 2015 at 8:35am
- Y10 Parents' Eve on Tuesday 20th January

Follow us on Twitter:
@murrayparkderby



School News

Year 7 Futsal Team

The Year 7 Futsal team participated in their first tournament in October and performed exceptionally well. With results in the regular season not going in their favour the team were looking forward to a change of pace with the indoor game. Taking part in the Derby City regional finals and looking for a place in the County finals the team were hopeful of some positive results.

First up were Noel Baker, arguably the toughest opponent in the group, who were dispatched by 3 goals to 1. In the second game the team won 5-0 against Hardwick. More success followed in the third and final games with victories of 4-2 and 5-0 against Lakeside and Oakwood respectively.

This 100% record was thoroughly deserved and the school is very proud of the teams' achievements. They will now go onto represent Derby City in the County finals.



The players (from left to right in the photo); Scott Boden, Max Elliot, Deklan Burke, Jack Tipper, Morgan Williams, Josh Genelli and Cameron Baines.

ICT - Microsoft Office Qualification

Five Year 9 ICT students have worked extremely hard in lesson and in some cases after school to achieve a **Microsoft Office Specialist qualification** in Microsoft Excel. This is an internationally recognised qualification which they will be able to take with them into the workplace when they leave school.



Children in Need Afternoon

On Wednesday 12th November the Year 7's held an activity afternoon to raise money for Children in Need. The activities we did were; throwing sponges at Head Girl and Head Boy (Mr Birt and Mrs Hadden also got very wet!). We completed a 2 mile fun run/walk, designed superhero cakes and did a superhero quiz. Best of all we got to dress up as superheroes for the day! The following morning we sold the superhero cakes. Doing these activities raised an amazing £262.18. Thank you very much for your support and Well Done to all the Year 7's!



Written by Ellie Steeples 7GD and Abbie Lamb 7GD

School Uniform - Available Online

From mid-January, uniform orders can be processed on-line and delivered to Student Services for collection. See the school website for further details.

School News



Oaklands Manor

On our first Enrichment Day at Murray Park we visited Oaklands Manor in Buxton.

We spent the day doing various team building and challenge activities.

The day gave us a great opportunity to communicate and rely on each other in order to complete the tasks. In one of the activities –



retrieving the can from the middle of the pond, some

people got very wet as the group did not work together and people fell into the water! Low ropes, spiders webs, climbing walls, crate climbing were all activities that were done by the year group.

It was a fantastic day!

Written by Sevita Abdul-Virk



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child was launched at the end of September. We set a target of 50 shoe boxes to fill and the money to send them - quite a challenge!

By collection day we had exceeded this as 66 shoe boxes were eventually dispatched with money from the Non Uniform Day going towards the cost of sending the parcels. A huge thank you to all who contributed!



Fundraising

Murray Park students have been busy raising money for charity this term. In total we have raised over £1,200 for worthy causes and have much more planned for the future. Well done everyone!

Charity	Amount
MacMillan Cancer Support	£317.20
Children in Need YR 7	£262.18
Non Uniform Day Christmas Boxes	£192.00
Non Uniform Day Children in Need	£456.54

Musical Instruments Needed!

Do you have any unwanted musical instruments that you no longer use or have space for?

We would be very grateful for any contributions to our Music department. Please contact Mr Elliott.



Christmas Concert

Please join us for a festive evening of singing and musical performances by our students and staff on Wednesday 17th December at 6pm in Cedar Park Hall.

Tickets are £3 for adults and £1.50 for children and are available at Student Services in advance or on the door on the night.

Merry Christmas!





Calendar & Key Dates

Murray Park School
Murray Road
Mickleover
Derby

Phone: 01332 515921

Fax: 01332 519146

E-mail: info@murraypark.derby.sch.uk

Don't forget to visit our website!



HOLIDAY DATES

	<u>Last Day at School For Students</u>	<u>First Day Back at School For Students</u>
CHRISTMAS 2014	Friday 19 th December	Monday 5 th January 2015
February 2015 Half Term	Friday 6 th February	Monday 16 th February
SPRING 2015	Friday 27 th March	Monday 13 th April
May 2015 Half Term	Friday 22 nd May	Monday 1 st June
SUMMER 2015	Thursday 23 rd July	

Please save the school email address (student.services@murraypark.derby.sch.uk) to your email address book to ensure any emails we send are not sent to your Junk Box.

Thank you



CALENDAR

Wed 17th Dec - Rewards Trips

Wed 17th Dec - Christmas Concert (6pm)

Fri 19th Dec - Break up for Christmas

Mon 5th Jan - Students return to school

w/c 12th and 19th Jan - Y11 Mock Exams

Tues 20th Jan - Y10 Parents' Evening

Fri 6th Feb - INSET (Tutor) Day

Break up for Half Term

Mon 16th Feb - Students return to school

Tues 24th Feb - Enrichment Day

Tues 3rd Mar - Y9 Options Marketplace

Y9 Parents' Evening

Weds 4th Mar - Y10 Maths Challenge

Thurs 5th Mar - World Book Day

Tues 10th Mar - Y11 Performance Evening

Thurs 12th Mar - World Maths Day

Thurs 19th Mar - Parents' Forum

Mon 23rd Mar - INSET Day

Thurs 26th Mar - Rewards Trips

Fri 27th Mar - Break up for Easter

Inset Days

Friday 6th February 2015

Monday 23rd March 2015

Friday 3rd July 2015

Parent Forum - Have Your Say!

On Thursday 11th December we held our first Parents' Forum of the year. It was a well attended evening despite the weather.

Miss Crowfoot explained our new process of Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) and how research suggests how much progress can be increased by.

Mrs Bowler also described the new style of full reports which will be used for the first time with Year 9 this term. To support student progress our reports now identify one skill area which students have mastered or are doing well in which is followed by a suggested way to specifically improve or develop work.

This new style of report was shared with parents and we hope their suggestions can be incorporated into the next set of full reports. We would like to thank all the parents who attended this and previous forums and look forward to seeing you and other parents on Thursday 19th March at the next Parents' Forum.

