



Issue Two: Dec 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow! That was a busy start to the year. Three successful events under our belts all before Christmas!

First up... With an “ooooh” and an “ahhhh” was Party in the Dark. This event replaced our usual annual discos and instead the children and parents enjoyed a host of activities, hot food and a fantastic fireworks display. A huge thank you goes to Zelpha and Mark Chapman for their generosity and time. Thank you also to the volunteers and staff that helped at the event, especially Mr Crockett and Mr Willimott for DJ-ing. Friends would however like to take this opportunity to apologise for the unexpected debris which resulted from unexpected wind direction and our sincere apologies go to those that were affected by it. This is something we hope will not happen next year once the school site is fully accessible again.

All in all, the event was a huge success and a fantastic £1592.60 was raised!!!! Definitely one to repeat next year!

Unfortunately Race Night had to be cancelled due to lack of uptake; general feedback is that this event was too close to Christmas and other events so we will put another date in the diary for next year and try again... Watch this space!

Next up... the Christmas Fair. At the beginning of the school year, we weren't entirely sure if our usual Christmas extravaganza would go ahead but thanks to the support and generosity of Holy Trinity Church, we were able to host another super fun fair. A tremendous amount of effort went in to ensure the fair could go on despite the change in venue. Thank you to all those from Holy Trinity that helped with organising this. I think it is fair to say they were in for a little shock at the epic tombola we had... thanks to all those that donated towards this. A massive thank you also goes to Meredith and Nathan for their wonderful singing that certainly got us all in the festive spirit.

Once again Father Christmas visited, giving the children the chance to share their Christmas Wishes; thank you to all the Elves that made the grotto a huge success. As always this event couldn't have been a success without all the volunteers running stalls, baking goods, setting up and packing away; without you the Fair couldn't go on.

An amazing £1421 was raised. Thank you



So the third event of this term was one of the children's favourites... The Secret Shopping Room, this year with added Candy Cane sales, which was held at North Baptist Church. Thanks to Reverend Penny and her team for supporting us with this. We had an amazing 47 volunteers on the Thursday night for The Big Wrap, with everyone helping wrap in excess of **2000** presents and setting up ready for the children to make the exciting trip from school to choose their presents for family, friends and pets. A big thank you goes out to Ayla Ismail for organising the shopping room and to Huma Khan for the Candy Canes.

Nursery Shopped a few days later, so final figures have not quite come in yet but we hope to have raised in excess of £1300 for this event.

Along with the Christmas card sales, in the Autumn term we have raised just over £4500! We think you would all agree this is a phenomenal amount.

At this point we also would like to say a big thank you to Mr Sam and Krzysztof for their help over the past few months moving equipment, tables and prizes from the school grounds to the various venues for all the events. They have been absolute superstars!

From the money raised last year, with a chorus of "he's behind you", the children got to enjoy the panto "Scroogical" . The feedback we have had from the children was that they enjoyed this event and fun was had by all.



Coming up in 2017...

- ❖ **Spring Ball-** Get your glad rags out and polish up your dancing shoes ready for a great night. At only £25 a head for a three course dinner at the Mercure Hotel with Fantastic Live Music from “My Holiday romance”. This is sure to be an excellent evening. This event is open to all, so grab your family and friends and join us for a great night on Friday 24th March – tickets will be available in the New Year.
- ❖ **Highwood’s Got Talent-** a talent show open to all children, staff and parents. Do you have a wonderful singing voice? Some super dance moves? A particularly well trained dog or any other talent? We have use of the wonderful theatre at Bushey Academy School for this event which promises to be a great one! Auditions will be held in February and the show is Thursday 25th May more details to follow in the new year.

We are still looking for class representatives for Birch 2, Beech 2, Willow 5 and Sycamore 6. If you are interested in what this involves please let us know.

As always Friends are waiting with open arms for anyone wanting to join the committee, become a class rep or volunteer at the events. Please speak to Bev, Angie, your class representatives or email us at friendsofhighwood@highwood.herts.sch.uk to find out how you can get involved.

Finally we hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Bev, Angie and all the Committee.