

# Thomas Ashton School Newsletter



Welcome to the Christmas Issue, we would like to thank you for your continued support

It's been a busy and exciting term here at Thomas Ashton. The classes have all been involved in a range of activities, on the run up to Christmas. Here's a selection of what we have been up to.

## Decorating the Christmas Tree at Hyde Town Hall

We were asked by Councillor Philip Fitzpatrick and Karen from Paper Tulips craft shop in Hyde if we would like to decorate one of the Christmas trees outside Hyde Town Hall. We jumped at the idea and we were given the theme of silver. Every child in the school made a decoration for the tree. On the 22nd November we took a selection of pupils along to Hyde Town Hall to meet the councillors and decorate the Christmas tree.

## Christmas Enterprise

As part of 'enterprise' various groups thought of ways in which to make money at the Christmas Fair. Lamarr came up with the idea of creating a room, transporting children to Lapland using a green backdrop and a touch of magic! The group also made things such as wine glass charms and cookies in jars in readiness for the Fair.

## Christmas Fair and Coffee Morning

It was a great turn-out at the annual Christmas Fair and coffee morning. Pupils, parents / carers and staff all pulled together in what was another successful event. There were lots of goodies to be had including Christmas decorations, sweet treats, turkey and stuffing muffins, raffles, games and prizes galore! A total of £257.74 was raised for The Alzheimer's Society and £50.00 for Tameside Council's 'Leaving Care'.

Thank you to everybody!



# Headteacher's Update

Our early Christmas present this year was .....OFSTED! Two inspectors visited school on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November. Thanks to those parents and carers who volunteered to speak to an inspector.

They stayed for one day, deciding they had seen enough to confirm: **"This school continues to be good"**.

The report is now available to read. Simply go to the school's website, click on the Ofsted link and it is the latest report at the top.

It explains how and why we have been judged as 'good', and it gives us some areas for improvement focusing on writing, especially with the younger ones, and around the depth of learning through our project based work.

**I am extremely proud of our team: pupils, staff, parents and carers, governors and those from other agencies who help with the work we do. I just want to thank everyone for their continued hard work and support!**



## PROMOTING READING

Please can I ask that you don't lose sight of the good old fashioned **book** as a fantastic Christmas present? In this age of high technology, we must remember to use any and every opportunity to promote the basic skills of our children, and books remain a wonderful way to stimulate the imagination, share important facts, develop emotions and, of course, improve reading skills! **And...** just as importantly, it is something you can do together with your child.

## FOTAS

If you were able to come to the coffee morning you will have seen the parent group FOTAS in action! They have successfully launched themselves as an informal support group for the parents and carers of pupils at Thomas Ashton School, whether it is purely social, or whether it is about listening and signposting to make sure the right help is available to everyone who needs it. The next meeting is 9-11am on Monday 8th January.

## PARENTING GROUP

A quick reminder that the Parenting Group will be running next term for the fourth time, and has proven to be very helpful to those who have taken part. If this interests you and you can make a morning a week over an eight week period, contact me for further information.

**Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas break. Best wishes for the New Year and I will see you all again in January 2018!**

Remember, you can always view our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and others on our website, or ask for a copy of these or any other policy from the office.

## School Dates

Finish for Christmas	Friday 22nd December
Return	Monday 8th January
Finish for half term	Friday 16th February
Return	Monday 26th February
Finish for Easter	Thursday 29th March
Return	Monday 16th April

