

## DECEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

### END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

We intend to dismiss students at 11.50 am on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Those entitled to a free school meal will be able to collect a packed lunch from the school canteen at 10.35 am. School buses will not be available from school on this day. Those pupils who are unable to get home will be supervised in school until 2.45 pm.

**All pupils are expected back at school at the normal time on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.**

### CRAFT FAIR

I would like to extend sincere thanks to everyone who helped in any way at all with this year's Craft Fair.

Without this help and all the wonderful donations of cakes/raffle prizes, etc., the fair would not be a success, nor would it be so highly regarded in the 'crafting' world.

Unfortunately, this year was not quite as busy as usual, but still managed to raise around £1200. Thank you again, so much, to all staff, students and parents; but in particular to Carol Roberts, for organising the event.

### GREAT START TO THE YEAR AT KINGSTONE

Whilst there has been a busy start to the academic year this term, with lots of events and activities taking place, Kingstone continues to be a calm and pleasant place to work and learn. This newsletter shares with you highlights from the year so far.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

The school held a Remembrance Day event on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. A series of assemblies, in memory of those who have died fighting on our behalf were held, along with readings from both pupils and staff.

This moving and memorable event culminated in the whole school, parents, governors and special guests gathering on North playground in front of a cenotaph made by Alex Leithgoe and pupils, where the 'last post' was played.

It was a wonderful and fitting tribute; the pupils remained in complete silence throughout the event and were a credit to each and every one of us. Our special thanks go to Chris Herbert, the son of Michelle Walker, the school's Data Manager, who took part in the service. Chris had recently been wounded in the conflict in Iraq and served as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Yorkshire Regiment.

### CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Shortly before Half Term, we again hosted the Celebration of Achievement Awards in school. Organised by Barnsley Council's Children, Young People and Families Service; it is an annual celebration which promotes excellence and celebrates achievement right across borough.

Kingstone supported the Authority, by staging a series of wonderful performances with children from virtually every school in the borough taking part.

Congratulations to Graham Tye, who was nominated for the adult award this year. Graham, a former Assistant Head, has recently been working with our Year 11 Mathematics Intervention Group, to enable them to achieve success in their GCSE.

Thanks and congratulations to Charlie Brammer for organising the logistics of the event and to everyone who contributed. The 'Children in Care' buffet and disco was fantastic; celebrating the achievements of some of the most vulnerable children in the Authority.

## YEAR 11 ACHIEVEMENT EVENING

On the 1<sup>st</sup> December, we welcomed last academic year's Year 11 students back into school to present them with their examination certificates and make special awards for outstanding achievement, effort and progress. It also provided an opportunity for students to meet up again with their former teachers and fellow pupils.

It was wonderful to see the students looking so confident and mature; it is very pleasing to work with children that grow up to become such interesting and assured young men and women.

Special thanks go to Anne Wragg who masterminded the event and to Mick Little (our former Chair of Governors) who presented the awards and certificates.

## GET FIT FOR A FIVER IN 2010

Kingstone Sports Centre is offering parents and friends of the school a great opportunity to get in shape at the start of 2010. Parents can enjoy five sessions in the Fitness Suite with a personalised programme for five weeks at the beginning of January ... all for an amazing five pounds!

Please contact the Sports Centre direct on 738586 if you would like to book these sessions.

## FOLK EVENING

The Parents' Association are organising a folk evening, on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, featuring popular rising stars, Barnsley's own duo, Jamie Roberts and Katriona Gilmore. Both highly talented singer/songwriters, Katriona and Jamie complement each other perfectly with stunning fiddle and guitar accompaniment and their reputation is deservedly growing, with festival and concert bookings over the length and breadth of the country. Jamie is well known in Kingstone School (and partner primary schools) as a Performing Arts technician, but is probably not known for his "other life". Katriona is also well known, working for Barnsley Music Department, she teaches violin to many young people in local schools. The evening will feature support spots from further guests. More details to be announced and tickets available, at a later date. Please telephone 203816 for further information.

## AND FINALLY...

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. M. Milburn  
Headteacher



## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (2010-2011)

### OUR GOALS

#### **Progress and Standards of Achievement**

*Significant and sustained improvement in pupil progress compared to similar schools.*

#### **Personal Attributes**

*A larger proportion of pupils should have high self-esteem and confidence.*

#### **Qualities as Learners**

*Pupils should be well motivated, able to learn collaboratively, self-reflective and have a positive sense of direction.*

Work on the School Improvement Plan is going well, while there is still some work to do, we are proud of the achievements we have made to date and how the goals we have set are moving ever closer.

A number of parents have already; through the various consultation forums, given feedback on the School Improvement Plan (ideas/suggestions for taking the school forward). If any parents haven't as yet had the chance to contribute and would like to take this opportunity to do so, please forward any suggestions to [k.cooper@barnsley.org](mailto:k.cooper@barnsley.org).