



Main Road, Smalley Derbyshire DE7 6EF  
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**Head teacher – Mrs K Mason**

19<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents,

As the children prepare to break up for the Christmas holiday I write with some information for you.

This term has been incredibly busy and below is a list of some of the exciting things the children have been involved in since September:

- Sporting Activities/Competitions for Basketball, Dodgeball, Athletics and Handball
- Winners of the Gregg Cup Football tournament
- Harvest Celebrations both in school and at Church
- Remembrance Service – BBC News Broadcast
- Visit to The National Memorial Arboretum
- Visits to the Theatre
- Open Books Evening
- Year 1 regular visits to our local Nursing Home taking part in Boogie Beats.
- Advisor/Governor visits
- Sing Club singing in Church for Christingle
- PTFA Christmas Fayre
- Filming for Embark
- Decorating Christmas Tree for Church
- Four Christmas Productions

As a reward for all their hard work both in the classroom and beyond I have booked a 'Glow' Disco for them on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018, our last day in school. As you know this is Christmas Jumper Day along with their school uniform. On this occasion there is no request for a donation.

Until Friday, the children will be busily working in their classrooms on curriculum activities and assessments and I urge you to send them into school every day as progress will still be high on the agenda as well as enjoying seasonal activities.

### **Christmas Concerts**

Thank you for your support and understanding with our Key Stage concerts. We now have 210 children on roll and obviously this means more parents to accommodate in our school hall. Thankfully every parent has been offered the chance to attend one of our concerts and lots of grandparents have still managed to attend, particularly in our afternoon performances.

Having both Key Stages perform means that school is disrupted while children swap classrooms for afternoon performances and to do this takes a lot of organisation, but the children gain a valuable experience and it is a joy to watch them grow in confidence.

It is also our first Christmas using ParentPay for tickets and it has been a learning curve for all involved. We will be assessing our practices and seeing how we can improve upon these for next year, again we thank you for your understanding. We hope you appreciate that we try our very best to make it fair for everyone.

## Embark Update

From the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019, five of the seven schools will convert to become part of Embark Federation Multi Academy Trust (MAT). Unfortunately we are one of the schools with a slight delay. This is due to land issues – we are partly owned by the Richardson Foundation and partly by the Local Authority. The solicitors are working hard to resolve this, enabling us to convert at the earliest possible date. This should be rectified very soon. We are, however, working together as seven schools already and enjoyed a joint INSET Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018. All seven schools were involved in presentations to enable staff to meet and make valuable professional connections which in turn will support your child's learning by working with other staff in the MAT, some of whom have great expertise in a variety of areas.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr Crawford all the very best in his new role as C.E.O of Embark Federation MAT and thank him for all his hard work here at Smalley. Obviously he will still continue to work with us in his new capacity.

## Finally

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff publicly. They are a committed team and work hard to ensure your children achieve in all aspects of school life.

Our Key Stage 2 results were published last week and we are proud to note that for Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined we are significantly above, with Smalley achieving 74% compared to the National Average of 64%. At Greater Depth our pupils performed well in all 3 subjects again all above the National Averages.

More detail can be found by following this link where you can see the data for our school and others across the county.

[https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools&region=830&laname=derbyshire&laname=derbyshire&geographic=la&for=primary&basedon=Overall+performance&show=All+pupils&datasetfilter=provisional&searchtype=&orderby=ks2.0.PTRWM\\_EXP&orderdir=asc&datatype=percent&sortpolicy=inversepolicy](https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools&region=830&laname=derbyshire&laname=derbyshire&geographic=la&for=primary&basedon=Overall+performance&show=All+pupils&datasetfilter=provisional&searchtype=&orderby=ks2.0.PTRWM_EXP&orderdir=asc&datatype=percent&sortpolicy=inversepolicy)

We welcome many visitors to school throughout the year and they always comment on how well the children are behaved but also how polite, kind and respectful they are towards everyone in school. I am proud to lead a school where children not only achieve well but also are learning good manners and how to treat others.

I wish you, your families and of course your wonderful children a very Happy Christmas together and look forward to welcoming them back on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Kind regards

Mrs K Mason  
Headteacher