



# ST PIRAN'S SCHOOL

16<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Dear Parents

It has been customary for me to start my end of term letter at this time of year, with reference to inclement weather, but it has been somewhat benign of late and without wishing ill of the weather in the coming days it has been rather pleasant not to have had school closures with snow impacting on what we have wanted to achieve.

The term started with the children enjoying the superb improvements that we were able to undertake during the summer holidays. The greatest impact was from the changes to the Sports Hall, with new lighting installed, the walls painted and the re-surfacing and marking of the floor. This has had a fantastic impact on the facility and all children have benefitted from these improvements. The significant improvements to the changing rooms in the Piran's Centre were well overdue as well. The changes within the Nursery have also been wonderful for the Nursery children, enabling us to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum in a new way. It has meant the children can make more use of the Nursery facilities, both inside and outside. Most recently, the new staging in the Tippet Hall has come into its own, with the two productions that we have enjoyed, but more of those later.

At the start of term, the children enjoyed their residential trips and as ever the Year 4 trip to Mill on the Brue remains a firm favourite of all. On all trips, whether it was the Year 8's to France, the Year 5 and 6's to Osmington Bay or the Y4's to Mill on the Brue, the children all came back having benefitted enormously from their experience.

We were also able to appreciate the installation of the new organ in the Chapel which was funded jointly by the Past Pupils Association, the St Piran's Society and the school. It has made all the difference to our Chapel services and it is wonderful to have it back in action again.

Another musical event, more recently this time, was the visit by the ACM Gospel Choir, who gave the children such a fantastic workshop opportunity. The day culminated in a concert given by the children and members of the Gospel Choir, which I know many parents thoroughly enjoyed and this led on seamlessly to an evening production attended by well over a hundred parents and members of staff. We were enthralled by the talents of the Gospel Choir and were all royally entertained. Our thanks go to Mrs Martin for her hard work in putting all that together.

On the games field, we have had a very successful term indeed. The footballers have had a great season right down to the U8's. The U8A's started with 2 defeats but in every game since, they became more effective. They played 6 fixtures, winning 3 and losing 3. The U8B's also played 6 fixtures and finished with the same record, winning 3 and losing 3. They did really well in their last fixture with a convincing 5-0

win against Daneshill. The U8C and D teams also improved and did really well to win 2 out of their 5 fixtures.

The U9's had a very successful season. The A's in particular only lost to Lambrook out of their 6 fixtures. They made it all the way to the semi-final of the Holme Grange Tournament in which they lost 3-2 to the eventual winners. The team managed to win our own Football Tournament out of a total of 8 schools, beating Lambrook in a fantastic final, 2-0. The U9B's played 7 fixtures, winning 4, drawing 1 and losing only 2. They also enjoyed success at the Holme Grange Tournament, winning the Plate competition. The U9C's enjoyed their season, although not their results as they weren't quite as successful as the others. Special mention must go to the U9D's who were the only St Piran's team out of eight to beat Lambrook in what was a fantastic team performance on the day.

The U10's have been brilliant this term and in particular the A's who deservedly won the team of the season award. They played really well as a team and some of the football they played was outstanding. They got better and better with every game and managed to achieve the best results in the school. They played 11 fixtures, winning 9, drawing 1 and losing 1; a very impressive record. The Under 10 B's had a very good season and their record of winning 6 and losing 2 is excellent. They also played some outstanding football throughout. The U10C's played really well as a team and managed to achieve some really impressive victories over St Neots, Papplewick and St George's.

The U11A's started off the season really well by making the semi-final of the Dolphin Tournament. They then went on to beat Bishopsgate and Dolphin before drawing with Papplewick. The U11B's did really well to win 3 of their fixtures and finish off the season in style with a thumping 11-0 victory over Daneshill. The U11C's competed extremely well and were unlucky not to win a game.

For the Year 8's it was always going to be a difficult season as the numbers were so few but they had some close fixtures and they enjoyed themselves over the term. They didn't have a problem scoring goals as they managed to score in every game; it was just letting them in at the other end which didn't help!

In general the girls' netball this term has been extremely successful. There have been teams more successful than others but overall, the results are very impressive. The U11A team, despite a number of illnesses and absences during the course of the term have only lost one match. They won The Abbey Netball Tournament and were runners up at the Bradfield College Tournament. They have beaten a whole number of local schools about which they can be extremely pleased. They have also won all of their Maidenhead and District League matches.

The U10A's have had a good season and grown in confidence as the term has gone. They won most of their matches towards the end of the season. The U9's have enjoyed playing 7-a-side. They have only lost one game against St George's. The U8A's have also been playing 7-a-side and 5-a-side and again, they only narrowly lost one game. The youngest children have had a tremendous start playing against some tough competition and making some impressive wins.

Outside of the A teams the girls have had mixed fortunes but their tenacity and determination to be successful cannot be faulted. We look forward to more success in the netball next term as the season continues but also the girls will be starting their hockey.

In the swimming pool we continue to have outstanding squads at all levels. Squad members have given their full commitment and effort to the early morning training sessions and this has had an impact on our successes in the galas. Middle School had 3 galas and won them all. They beat Lambrook at home and away, and St John's Beaumont. The Year 3 swimmers have gained a huge amount of confidence. Upper School had 3 home galas. They beat The Oratory Prep School, Cottesmore and Chesham Prep School convincingly, but couldn't quite hold off St John's Beaumont in the triangular tournament. St Piran's are doing really well to compete so successfully at this standard especially as our numbers in Year 8 are particularly low. Many children have gained National Plan and School Speed Awards this term. All the Year 6 children passed their National Curriculum Water Safety Award. For everyone taking part in Swimathon 2012, we look forward to seeing you on the day; over 80 of you are taking part! Sponsorship money will be divided between the Lions Club of Maidenhead, St Piran's School and The Kazi Mingi Foundation Fund. We'll be raising money to provide television monitors in the St Piran's Centre and the main school to give up to date information about what is happening to both parents and pupils alike.

The St Piran's Society have had a successful term as you will have seen from their inaugural newsletter, so I won't go into much detail, but suffice to say my sincere thanks go to both Sue Ballard and Kate Taylor and all the Committee Members for the outstanding work they do, giving us some great social events to attend and along the way, raising significant sums of money to do the extra bits around school that make all the difference.

Through the term certain children in the Upper School have been sitting entrance tests for Senior Schools. A large number sat the 11+ Grammar School entrance exams just before half term and I am delighted that nearly 60% of those who took the test achieved the requisite 121 pass mark and have the option of going on to Grammar Schools in the future. There were 4 children in particular who need special mention, who achieved the highest possible mark of 141 and they are Charlie Harris, Oliver Hooper, Alexander Lang and Alex Nairn.

Just recently we have heard that William Talbott is to be congratulated on being awarded an Academic Scholarship to Licensed Victuallers' School in Ascot. William has worked extremely hard in school and this is richly deserved. Several other children are also sitting Scholarship assessments for their senior schools soon and we wish them well.

Our Open Days this term were a great success. Significant numbers of families continue to visit the school and this is always a tremendously good sign. I must though, highlight the immense value of current parents as voices for us in the community. I would encourage you again to talk about St Piran's to friends and relatives and encourage them to come and visit us. You know the quality of the education and the opportunities that your children receive and I would love to be able to talk to other families to encourage them to join us as well. As I hope you are aware, we have some very exciting plans for the future. We are currently in the pre-application stage of planning permission for a new three class Reception build alongside the current Nursery. These plans are very exciting and as previously mentioned will enable us to have the Early Years Foundation Stage children in one area. The Nursery and Reception staff are currently working very hard on the detail for the internal layout of the new build and we are looking to a full planning

application being submitted in the very near future indeed. If all plans go ahead, building work will start in April and we will of course keep you advised as to the impact of that and how we can make it as least disruptive as possible. This will then lead us to looking to improve the facilities for Year 1 and 2 and we are already getting ideas together for this part of the Pre-Prep development ready for September 2013. Still on the site development theme, you will have noticed a large hole appear in the middle of the All Weather Pitch. This has been dug to enable us to do a percolation test so that those contractors tendering for the project, will know what foundations they need to put in place for our new surface. Again, weather permitting, the work on this will start in the Easter half term and we look forward to having a fantastic facility for the Summer Term.

You should by now have received a letter informing you about the uniform check that the children will be having at the start of next term. Please can I encourage you to ensure that all parts of the uniform, both the games kit and the general uniform, are fully named, so that we can return lost property to their rightful owners.

In conclusion, we have enjoyed some wonderful productions in the Tippet Hall over the last couple of weeks. The Pre-Prep and Reception concert was wonderful and I know that those of you who attended were captivated by the singing, the confidence with which the children performed and the spectacular impact they made. The Nursery children, as ever, produced a fantastic Nativity for us to enjoy. It seems to go by in a blink of an eye and this time it seemed to go with minimal upset or tears with all the children thoroughly enjoying taking part. I would like to thank all the Nursery and Pre-Prep staff for all their hard work in getting the children ready for these productions. Our final event of this term will be on Thursday night when we hold our Carol Service at St Mary's Church which I am sure will be a great success.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas a successful New Year and we will see you all again on 11<sup>th</sup> January for the start of our Easter Term.

With all best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Carroll', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Carroll  
Headmaster