



**Northwood Broom Community School**  
**Keelings Road, Northwood, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 6QA**  
**Telephone: 01782 234379** **Email: nbcs@espritmat.org**  
**Executive Headteacher & Child Protection & Safeguarding Officer: Mrs S Moran**  
**Head of School: Mrs S Carrigan**

Our ref. SC.GA

21<sup>st</sup> December, 2017

Dear Parents/carers,

It's hard to believe that this is the last letter that I will send to you in 2017 and that our nursery children (who make me proud, laugh and smile every single day) have been at Northwood for a term already! Didn't they do amazingly in their very first Christmas concert? What a lot of progress they have already made, and their confidence has really grown. They are going to start attending weekly celebration assemblies after Christmas – I can't wait to see them up there on the stage waving proudly to their families!

Where has the year gone? As always in school, it has been a busy and rewarding term that has ended with an array of fun learning opportunities for all. I'm sure that you would agree that the Christmas concerts were fantastic. The children have been working hard on improving their clear speaking voices and their efforts were a joy for all to see. As always, we respond to your feedback and are looking to improve year on year. We are investigating the possibility of moving our hall around so that it is easier for parents to see their children performing.

Our Christmas fayre was a huge success; we raised over £1,000.00 for school fund. Congratulations to our raffle prize winners and once again we thank you for supporting this event and for your generous donations. We are planning to put the money towards a new stage to help improve visibility for you during performances. We realise just how frustrating it is for you when you cannot see your child. Christmas dinner was delicious and well received. Thank-you to our kitchen staff and lunchtime staff for making feeding 222 look easy!

It is pleasing to share with you that we continue to focus on improving outcomes for our pupils. We had a visit from our Local Authority School Improvement Officer at the beginning of December and her report confirms that:

- High quality leadership and stable staffing places the school in a strong position to build on previous improvements and meet the challenging targets set for 2018.
- The learning environment provides evidence of good teaching, demonstrating the focus on language development and presentation of writing.
- Maths work shows pupils have the opportunity for open-ended, problem-solving activities.
- Displays reflect the breadth of the curriculum and the stimulating starting points used to engage and motivate pupils.
- Nursery children were calm and settled at lunchtime and supervisors were effectively reinforcing good mealtime behaviour.

We are currently developing a new website, which is due to be launched early in the spring term which we are very excited about. It will feature a blog from myself and senior leaders, diary dates, letters, class pages and much, much more...

Other achievements, celebrations and 'proud moments' that myself and Mrs. Poxon would like to share with you are:

- That the children's behaviour is recognised as a strength in school: by external partners on learning walks, your comment cards and feedback; and within emails received into school (including from staff at the Civic Centre in Stoke following our participation in Democracy Week)





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- Our Songbirds performed at The Victoria Hall earlier this month. Their talents and behaviour were second to none (thank-you Miss Slinn)
- Year 1 and Year 2's super assemblies for remembrance and harvest – yet more super speaking and singing skills on display
- All performances during the Christmas concerts
- More than anything, we just feel so lucky to work with your gorgeous children on a daily basis, they are so cheerful, hard-working and caring – what a real credit to you they are!

We have welcomed a number of new staff to the school this term, and I am delighted to say that they have all settled in extremely well, and are now firmly part of our family, enhancing the learning opportunities for our pupils.

We have another busy term ahead for spring. Attendance and punctuality remain a huge focus for Northwood. We need to rapidly improve both if we are to meet national expectations for attendance, which we will need to do in order to be recognised as an outstanding school. Phonics and reading, along with maths will be our focus for monitoring and improving next term in order to meet the high expectations/targets we set ourselves. In Maths the children will be taught using a new approach called 'maths mastery' where children will be introduced to using concrete, pictorial and abstract strategies (CPA) to complete their tasks; and encouraged to deepen their thinking through talking and reasoning. Our staff inset and children's experiences of working with 'Subject Revolution' have motivated and inspired them all and we look forward to sharing this approach with you in our parent 'Watch me Learn Maths' sessions early in the spring term. The Foundation Stage (nursery and reception) have an exciting half term ahead. They are embarking on a new adventure of outdoor learning known as 'Forest Schools'. The staff are very excited about this and cannot wait to plan some exciting activities following this training experience. I believe it will culminate in a camp fire - remember to send in a complete set of spare clothes!

Before I sign off for the year, may I thank the majority of parents/carers who are communicating with teachers through their child's communication diary appropriately. Parent feedback has been largely positive where this process has been followed. The teachers are the adult who know your child best in school and they can, in most cases, discuss and agree solutions to niggles, queries and concerns promptly but will escalate to leadership involvement if needed.

Finally, I thank you for your continued support. We really do appreciate the partnership we have with you all. From all of the staff here at Northwood, have a happy and safe Christmas with your family and friends. We look forward to working together in 2018 for another magical, successful year for our children.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Carrigan

Academy Principal

