

Wreay Church of England School



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1st December 2016

WINTER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Christmas is fast approaching and I thought that I would update you on the coming events of the next two weeks at school. Whilst this is undoubtedly one of the busiest times of year in school, it is also one of the most joyous and enjoyable for teachers, children and, hopefully, parents alike!

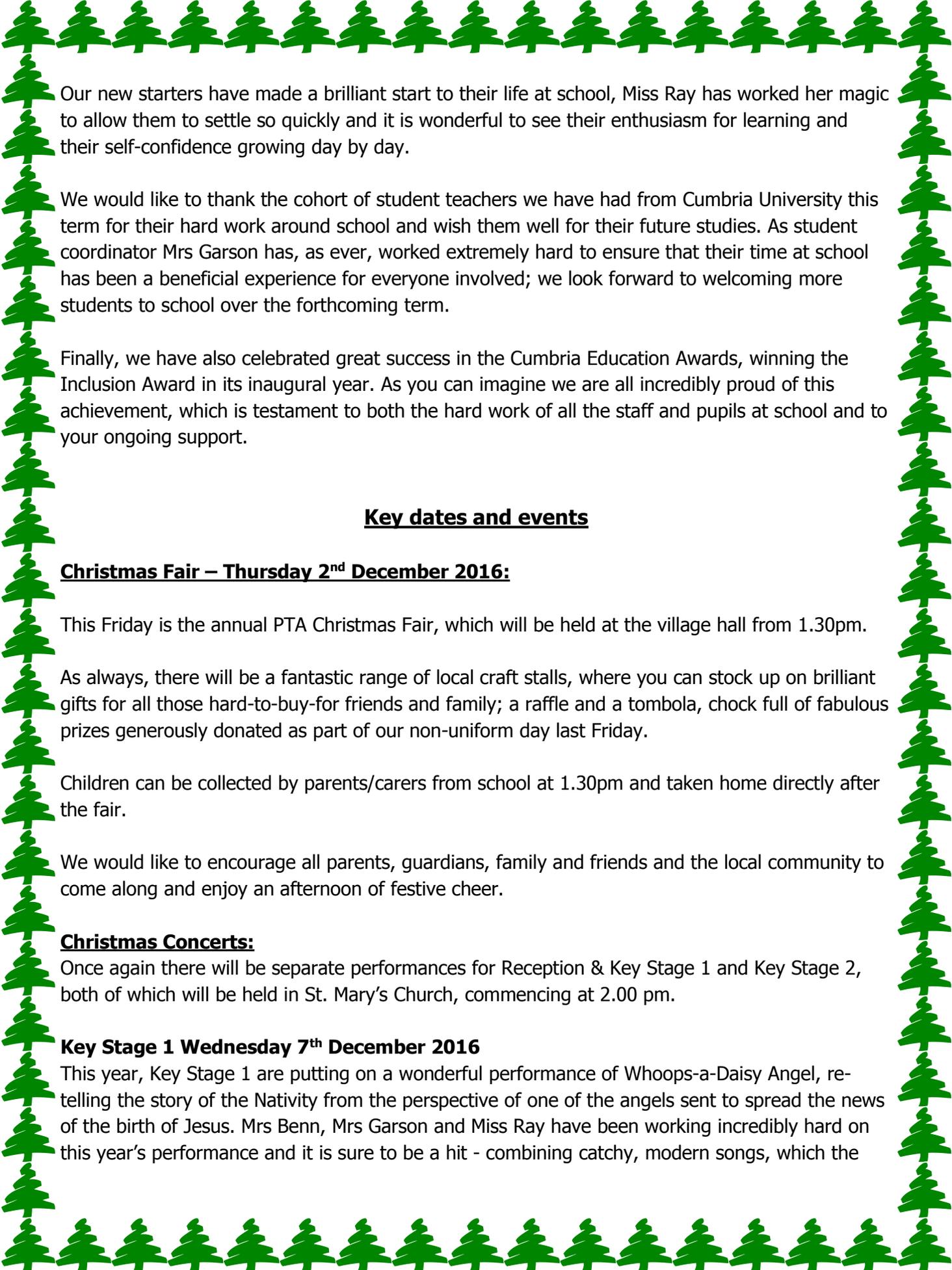
We have had an amazing autumn term at school and it has been incredible to see the progress that all the children in school have made. We have welcomed a number of new staff members to school, who have already made a significant impact, taking a lead in outdoor activities and the sports curriculum to great effect.

We have welcomed Mr Bone, Mr T Nelson and Mrs Deans to the school leadership team and are already having a positive effect across all school matters, assuming responsibility for Behaviour, Inclusion and Equality respectively. If any matters arise on occasions when Mrs Render is not in school, any member of the Senior Leadership Team will be glad to help you.

We have enjoyed great success with our sports teams, led by Miss Moir, who have taken part in sporting competitions ranging from football and rugby to hockey and athletics. Of particular note was the fantastic performance of the Year 5&6 boys' football team, who came second in the Carlisle Small Schools' 7-a-side tournament.

Since joining the team in September, Mr M Nelson has taken a leading role in enhancing our outdoor curriculum, organising walking trips around Cumbria for every class the Key Stages 1 and 2. The children have all shown a great interest in the natural world around them during these walks and we are already looking forward to the new walks and trips out that Mr Nelson has in the pipeline for the spring term.

We have taken part in a variety of Christian charity events led by Mrs Benn since September, including the cake sale for the Haiti appeal, the Christmas food hamper for a church in Carlisle, Harvest Festival for the Eden Valley Hospice, Christian Aid Wriggle Rescue. Thank you for all of your kind donations and charitable giving.



Our new starters have made a brilliant start to their life at school, Miss Ray has worked her magic to allow them to settle so quickly and it is wonderful to see their enthusiasm for learning and their self-confidence growing day by day.

We would like to thank the cohort of student teachers we have had from Cumbria University this term for their hard work around school and wish them well for their future studies. As student coordinator Mrs Garson has, as ever, worked extremely hard to ensure that their time at school has been a beneficial experience for everyone involved; we look forward to welcoming more students to school over the forthcoming term.

Finally, we have also celebrated great success in the Cumbria Education Awards, winning the Inclusion Award in its inaugural year. As you can imagine we are all incredibly proud of this achievement, which is testament to both the hard work of all the staff and pupils at school and to your ongoing support.

Key dates and events

Christmas Fair – Thursday 2nd December 2016:

This Friday is the annual PTA Christmas Fair, which will be held at the village hall from 1.30pm.

As always, there will be a fantastic range of local craft stalls, where you can stock up on brilliant gifts for all those hard-to-buy-for friends and family; a raffle and a tombola, chock full of fabulous prizes generously donated as part of our non-uniform day last Friday.

Children can be collected by parents/carers from school at 1.30pm and taken home directly after the fair.

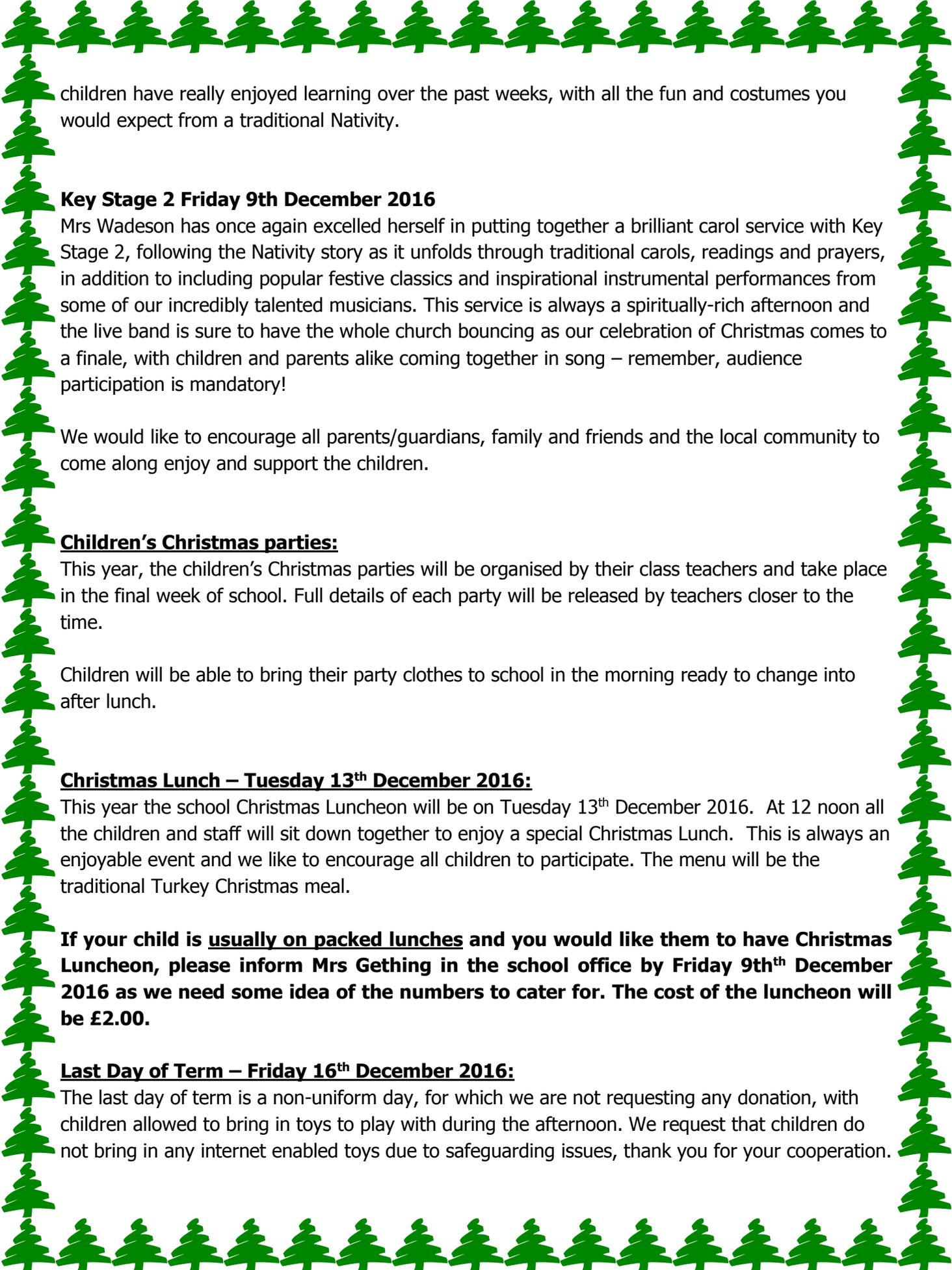
We would like to encourage all parents, guardians, family and friends and the local community to come along and enjoy an afternoon of festive cheer.

Christmas Concerts:

Once again there will be separate performances for Reception & Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, both of which will be held in St. Mary's Church, commencing at 2.00 pm.

Key Stage 1 Wednesday 7th December 2016

This year, Key Stage 1 are putting on a wonderful performance of Whoops-a-Daisy Angel, re-telling the story of the Nativity from the perspective of one of the angels sent to spread the news of the birth of Jesus. Mrs Benn, Mrs Garson and Miss Ray have been working incredibly hard on this year's performance and it is sure to be a hit - combining catchy, modern songs, which the



children have really enjoyed learning over the past weeks, with all the fun and costumes you would expect from a traditional Nativity.

Key Stage 2 Friday 9th December 2016

Mrs Wadeson has once again excelled herself in putting together a brilliant carol service with Key Stage 2, following the Nativity story as it unfolds through traditional carols, readings and prayers, in addition to including popular festive classics and inspirational instrumental performances from some of our incredibly talented musicians. This service is always a spiritually-rich afternoon and the live band is sure to have the whole church bouncing as our celebration of Christmas comes to a finale, with children and parents alike coming together in song – remember, audience participation is mandatory!

We would like to encourage all parents/guardians, family and friends and the local community to come along enjoy and support the children.

Children's Christmas parties:

This year, the children's Christmas parties will be organised by their class teachers and take place in the final week of school. Full details of each party will be released by teachers closer to the time.

Children will be able to bring their party clothes to school in the morning ready to change into after lunch.

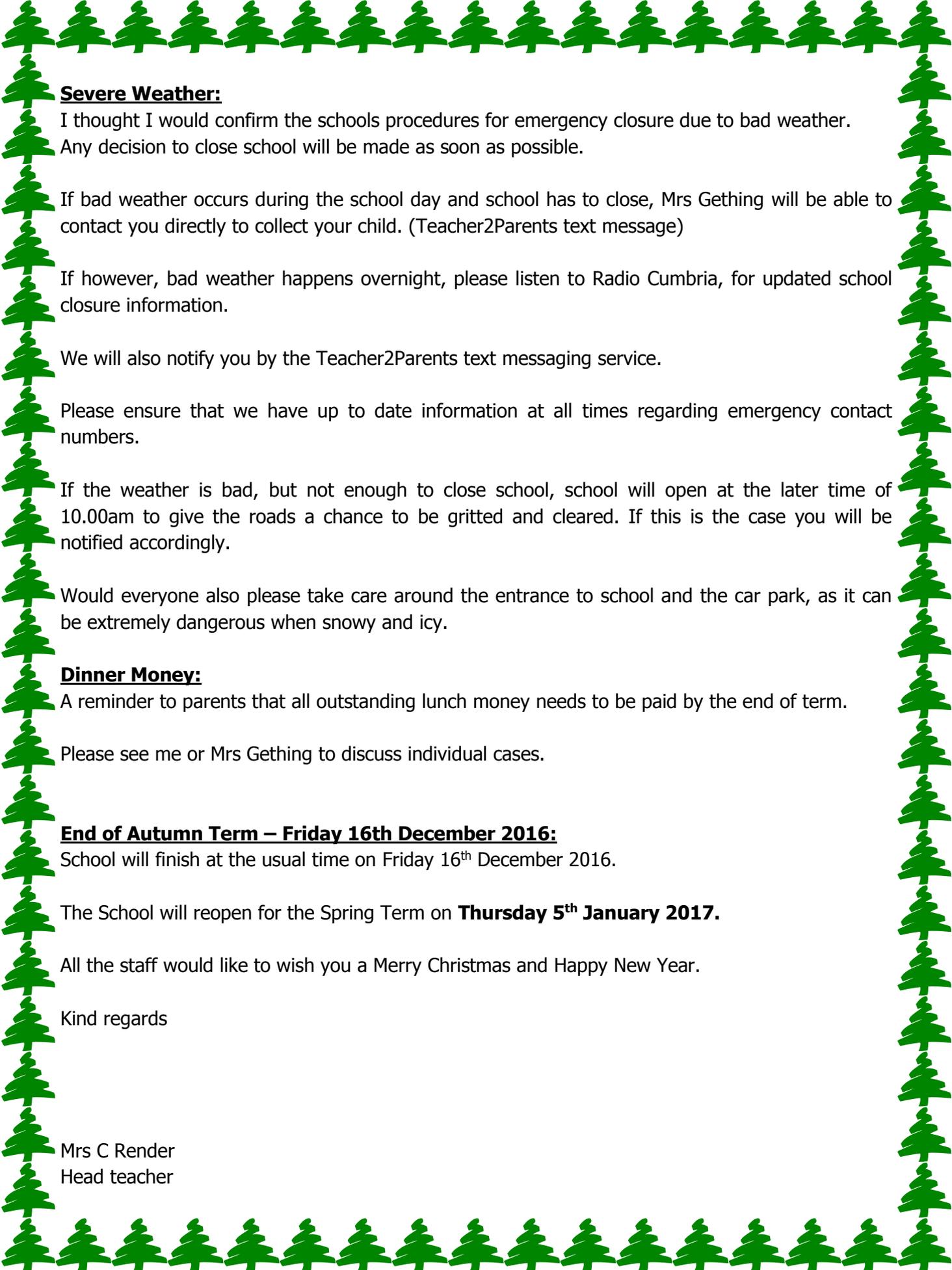
Christmas Lunch – Tuesday 13th December 2016:

This year the school Christmas Luncheon will be on Tuesday 13th December 2016. At 12 noon all the children and staff will sit down together to enjoy a special Christmas Lunch. This is always an enjoyable event and we like to encourage all children to participate. The menu will be the traditional Turkey Christmas meal.

If your child is usually on packed lunches and you would like them to have Christmas Luncheon, please inform Mrs Gething in the school office by Friday 9th December 2016 as we need some idea of the numbers to cater for. The cost of the luncheon will be £2.00.

Last Day of Term – Friday 16th December 2016:

The last day of term is a non-uniform day, for which we are not requesting any donation, with children allowed to bring in toys to play with during the afternoon. We request that children do not bring in any internet enabled toys due to safeguarding issues, thank you for your cooperation.



Severe Weather:

I thought I would confirm the schools procedures for emergency closure due to bad weather. Any decision to close school will be made as soon as possible.

If bad weather occurs during the school day and school has to close, Mrs Gething will be able to contact you directly to collect your child. (Teacher2Parents text message)

If however, bad weather happens overnight, please listen to Radio Cumbria, for updated school closure information.

We will also notify you by the Teacher2Parents text messaging service.

Please ensure that we have up to date information at all times regarding emergency contact numbers.

If the weather is bad, but not enough to close school, school will open at the later time of 10.00am to give the roads a chance to be gritted and cleared. If this is the case you will be notified accordingly.

Would everyone also please take care around the entrance to school and the car park, as it can be extremely dangerous when snowy and icy.

Dinner Money:

A reminder to parents that all outstanding lunch money needs to be paid by the end of term.

Please see me or Mrs Gething to discuss individual cases.

End of Autumn Term – Friday 16th December 2016:

School will finish at the usual time on Friday 16th December 2016.

The School will reopen for the Spring Term on **Thursday 5th January 2017.**

All the staff would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kind regards

Mrs C Render
Head teacher