

13th December 2011

Dear Parents,

And so our autumn term comes to an end, Christmas is upon us and the snow has stayed away so far!

The term has seen a vast array of activities, trips and visits for our pupils and students, far too many to list, together with some wonderful fund raising events for our nominated charities. Last week we were nominated for two awards by the Birmingham Mail and we won the 'Birmingham Mail Schools Award 2011, School Newspaper/Website Award' and we were runners up in the Eco Schools Award. Fantastic! Our school magazine, website and Eco Schools initiative reflect a vibrant and creative school that allows its pupils to engage in a wide range of learning activities so necessary for developing the skills and qualities needed for future life. I am absolutely delighted that we won the award and I know that all the pupils and my colleagues involved in the magazine and website are feeling very proud. Last week one of our Y13 student's A level extended project work resulted in an evening of 'Celebrating Cultural Diversity'. The show emphasised our school's approaches to such important issues and all invited guests and contributors had a wonderful time. My thanks go to Atif Ali (13ADY) for a job very well done! Our application to join the 'Get Set Network' has been successful and we are now part of the London 2012 games. Well done to our PE team! We were recently re-assessed for the Basic Skills Quality Mark and I am extremely pleased to inform you that we have, once again, been awarded this Quality Mark. My thanks go to our Learning Support team for all their efforts in this respect.

We have been contacting all of our parents over the last few weeks regarding eligibility for free school meals. For each pupil eligible we receive a significant amount of funding so it is vital that we identify all pupils who qualify. My thanks go to you for providing us with the information we need. If you have yet to respond, **please do so urgently**.

Small Heath School calendars have been delivered today and are on sale at the bargain price of just £2.50. The calendar is of a very high quality with each month depicting our pupils' and students' art and textiles work. Calendars are available to purchase at Reception areas, please buy one. All proceeds will go towards our chosen charities.

Our Y11 mock GCSE examinations have been taking place and will finish on Wednesday. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Y11 for the excellent manner in which they have approached these important examinations, very well done!

Next term could see a return of the severe weather we experienced last year. I hope not but it is best to be prepared. Should we experience weather severe enough to close our school then a closure notice will appear on our website. The school answer phone will have a message informing you of a closure and local radio stations, BRMB, BBC Radio West Midlands, Heart FM and Radio XL will also be notified and broadcast regular school closure updates.

A reminder, our lower school car park is for **staff use only** and should not be used for dropping off and/or picking up pupils. With several hundred children arriving and leaving this site every day, cars entering and leaving the site constitute a real threat to the safety of our children, thank you.

Finally, my thanks go to all our parents, carers and families for the wonderful support and encouragement you give to our school every day, it makes such a difference, thank you. Thank you also to all my colleagues, for not only providing a fantastic school for our children to attend every day, but for offering such a rich variety of learning experiences throughout the year.

I wish you all a very happy, safe and restful Christmas holiday and a happy and healthy 2012.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 15 th December	-	Last day of the autumn term for pupils
Wednesday 4 th January	-	Spring term begins for pupils
Thursday 12 th January	-	Y11 Parents Evening
Thursday 9 th February	-	Curriculum Enrichment and Enhancement Day
Friday 10 th February	-	School finishes for half term

Yours sincerely,

P. Slough
Headteacher