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To all Parents/Carers, 15/12/17

Did it really snow at the beginning of the week?? It seems like such a long time ago! All the children had a great time on the field whilst it lasted and although it was a bit slippy and a bit cold (actually it was freezing!) we couldn't really say we were a school that advocates the outdoors and not go outside! As a school we always remind the children that positive risk is an important part of learning – that includes knowing how to manage cold hands when throwing snowballs and how best not to slip and fall over! One parent actually said 'if my child learns nothing today apart from how to play in the snow then I'll be happy!' It's a shame the snow disappeared so quickly but we enjoyed it for the short time it was here.



In other news I was lucky enough to spend some time in different classrooms this week whilst staff took part in some peer observations. Although I see the children regularly throughout the course of the day it was absolutely brilliant to see some of the things I talk about to parents/carers 'in action'. I lost count of the number of children who talked to me about Growth Mindset and I could really sense, from FS2 all the way up to Y6, a resilient approach to learning – something I have talked about on many occasions and a quality I often say I want the children to leave Markeaton with. Another thing which stood out, which I knew anyway, was how polite and courteous the children are. It was a thoroughly enjoyable week!

And now for a competition...over the course of the next few days we are encouraging all Parents/Carers to download the PMX App. At the moment most Parents/Carers will access the PMX system online but now, considering the costs of sending text messages etc, we would like you to download the app for your phone or tablet device. This means that 'notifications' (shown on your phone) will replace text messages that we send - which will certainly be more cost effective. And the good news, anyone who downloads the app will be entered into a free prize draw. The main prize...a £40 voucher for the Red Cow in Allestree, so well worth entering!

And finally, yesterday the Government released the KS2 League Tables for all schools and Local Authorities in the country. By clicking on the first link below you will see the data for Markeaton and by clicking on the second link you will see the data for Derby City. For Reading/Writing/Maths combined at the expected standard we were 6th in the city (79%) and for Reading/Writing/Maths combined at a higher standard (also known as Greater Depth) we were top in the city (24%)! We were also joint top in the city for average scores in Reading! Although performance data only represents part of what we want the children to achieve during their time at Markeaton we are delighted with these results and it is testament to the collaboration of children, teaching staff and Parents/Carers and all their hard work. Well done!

https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/112739

https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=phase®ion=831&geographic=la&phase=primary

Have a good weekend and see you at the Christmas Fair!

Mr I. Johnson

