



13 December 2017

Dear Parents,

No school closure for us this week. Brigid and our boys' schools were both closed on Monday and Tuesday and, whilst I was a little put out by their smug responses when the texts came through on Sunday and Monday, I am proud to say that we were unaffected by the snow. Different climatic conditions of course beyond London and the right decision for them to close but I say it now: it would be highly unusual for us ever to have 'Snow Day'. If I can make it in, our school will be open. We have only closed once, in 2009, at the previous building on Pembridge Villas. The snow came down around 6am and, as none of the school bus drivers and some staff could not safely get to work, we had to close the School. I drove in that day from Buckinghamshire and, though fortunate to be in a 4 x 4, the journey was pretty treacherous. I got to the school around 9:30am and there, waiting on the steps, was one of our boys and his father, a Russian family who attended the school for many years. The father asked why the school wasn't open and when I told him that it was due to the snow he replied, "Snow? This isn't snow! Where I come from in Moscow, now that's what snow looks like!" I see his point and I do think we can get a bit carried away in this country with what are pretty placid conditions compared to other parts of the world.

As we were open, we could still enjoy our traditional Carol Service on Monday. The quality of the readings and the singing was better than ever before and, as I said on the night, the soloists were truly superb: Javier with the opening verse of *Once in Royal David's City*, Ashaan's brilliantly sung and performed *The Holy City*, The Fritz brothers, Lars and Jasper, with *Good King Wenceslas* and Thomas Dunn with *Silent Night*. I salute you all.

I will write separately to thank so many of you for your generous thoughts at Christmas time. You are an extremely kind parent body and the words in your cards, both to me and to our staff, mean such a lot to us all. Thank you to the parent (who will remain nameless) who asked this week if the image of the man on the Christmas Card was me or Cliff Richard. I think this was a compliment, as long as we are talking about early 40s Cliff rather than current Cliff. See what you think?



Cliff Richard



Nick Baker

Finally, I am delighted to inform you that Deputy Head, Miss Emma Hart, will not be returning to the School in January, at least in name. By the start of next term, Miss Hart will have become Mrs Emma Brookes, after what promises to be an exciting Wetherby Wedding in Belfast after Christmas. We all wish Emma and Richard a fantastic day and I promise to get a few photos to put in the Wetherbuzz in January. I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the very best for the future.

It's been a great 2017 for Wetherby Prep and there is lots to look forward to in 2018.

Have a super holiday...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Baker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nick Baker
Headmaster