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NORTHMEAD JUNIOR SCHOOL

GRANGE ROAD

GUILDFORD

SURREY

GU2 9ZA

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for the tremendous response to our survey regarding the Christmas production. We received 109 responses, one of our highest returns ever! We appreciate the time given to complete the forms and have been touched by the overwhelmingly positive feedback received.

The results have shown 100% of responses supported keeping a production and many parents cited the learning opportunities involved in being part of such a show and the way it brings the school together as a whole community. Three respondents felt it would be better to involve just the upper school and one person wanted the production split into an upper and lower school performances. Therefore, the format of a whole school show will remain.

*"I think Northmead productions are fantastic!  
Such a great opportunity for the children to be a part of, and they love it!"*

We take on board the criticisms that the show ended too late in the evening, with 23% of responses requesting an earlier start time. As only 7% of respondents wanted an afternoon performance this would not be a viable option as we would not be guaranteed a full audience. Therefore, our suggestion would be to bring the performance forward to start at 6.30. This would still allow for children to return home, and have a break and something to eat before the main cast would be needed back at 5.30. To pull the show any further forward would make it very difficult for year 6 and their families.

*"I feel that the school production is such an important part of Northmead as a school. It is a tradition going back years and I remember how much I got out of performing when I was at the school and now I'm seeing how much my daughter is getting out of it."*

15% of respondents requested that the show be shortened. In an ideal world we would like to ensure the play lasted no longer than an hour and a half. However, the logistics of including every child and ensuring they have an adequate performance time on stage, whilst retaining the storyline makes this a real challenge. In the future we will ensure class dances do not exceed three minutes which will go some way towards reducing the overall length of the play.

*"I think it is beneficial for all pupils to participate in a school play. It develops the ability to perform and stand in front of an audience. It also gives great team work opportunities and less academic children the chance to excel"*



The main concerns in the feedback received seem to centre on the allocation of tickets and difficulties experienced getting extra tickets. At present we allow two tickets per family. We appreciate that this can cause difficulties. The audience numbers have been worked out from a health and safety check made 3 years ago stating we could have no more than 160 persons watching each night. We have requested an updated survey to check this is still the case. Next year we will run a system whereby on your initial request slip we will ask you to indicate whether you would like extra tickets if available. There will be a clear cut off date for ticket requests a week prior to performances. At this point, the name anyone who has requested extra tickets will be put into a draw and randomly selected. This seems the only fair option. Staff with children performing will also be restricted to their two tickets.

*"I think this was one of the best out the eight I have seen at Northmead. Well done to all the staff for their hard work"*



We will continue to invite guests of the school such as the Mayor, local heads and governors as it is an important way in which we promote our school to the wider community.

Having analysed all the responses and taken on board the comments made we hope that the changes to the way the production is organised, noted in this letter will help our Northmead families next Christmas!

Yours Sincerely

Mrs D G Brown  
Head Teacher