The ATTAIN schools are small hubs of excitement as we near the Christmas Break. Nativity Plays, Carol Concerts, Christmas Lunches and even a Santa Fun Run have kept everyone busy for this half term. I am amazed that they all manage to pack so much in to the final few weeks of term and it is again testament to the hard work, determination and commitment of all the staff.

Elm Hall Staff (including Sarah, an honorary runner for the day!) took part in a 5k Santa Fun run from the school to Witham Town Centre. The PTA had organised the run and have raised £55 towards their continually increasing funds that will pay for an exciting new climbing frame - Well done!! The children have professionally recorded a selection of Christmas and Musical Show songs that have been produced on CD. The product has rocked to number one positions on the parents shopping list. They sang ‘several songs as a collective and each class also recorded an individual track. Watch out for Elm Hall’s stars of the future!

Newlands Spring have been busy with their KS1 nativity ‘Everyone loves a Baby’ and following a collection at each performance they raised an amazing £297 for CHESS. The ladies from the catering team delivered a feast for the children for the Christmas Dinner day last Friday covering over 420 meals for children and staff. They enjoyed homemade Christmas tree biscuits and took delight in sharing the jokes from their crackers - they were ably assisted by the Admin Hub staff and the lunch went seamlessly - an amazing feat ladies - wow!! All KS2 children have joined the local community and sang during the Christmas Carol Service at St Andrews Church - this is a very special service that brings the school and community together and is always enjoyed by all.

Rayne was invaded by an army of elves for their Christmas Bazaar who brought along their very own train to transport the children to Santa’s Grotto - once they were there, the children got to have a chat with Father Christmas, (just finalising Christmas lists) before they left with a pre-Christmas gift. The PSA did a great job organising a phenomenal Christmas Fayre and raised over £3300. This is a staggering amount that will help greatly to enhance the resources in the school - thank you! The Nursery Children were invited to sing with the Foundation Stage children and the school choir proudly represented their school at the recent Barnardos concert in Westminster Cathedral. They were fantastic ambassadors for their school and also the ATTAIN Academy Trust and Mrs Keeling and the staff were immensely proud of them.

Gosfield are in full swing with all their festive activities, enjoying a Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day - the array of jumpers on display was impressive and the staff joined in wearing some rather stylish headwear themselves! Each class has entertained parents and peers with various performances, Tiny Tim made an appearance for Year 4 during their rendition of songs from the musical Scrooge. They have also been visited by a rather naughty elf that has been pictured around the school causing havoc – who knows what other antics he has up his sleeve? Father Christmas might have something to say …… thank you the children have been fantastically well behaved this term and will be sure to receive a visit from him.

Finally, to all the Staff, Governors, Parents and Children of the ATTAIN Academy Partnership, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Susannah