Wednesday 29th January 2014

Dear Parent/Carer,

**RE. ALBATROSS**

I am thrilled to inform you that your child is officially a member of the Albatross Team 2014. Due to the amount of interest, and theatre limitations regarding the number of children legally permitted on and back stage, a large number of factors have determined the cast size this year. One crucial detail involves the number of children who will be travelling from Kenya to join the Downs Junior cast. Over the last 2 weeks I have been in regular contact with Lizzie Jago and her team in Nairobi regarding casting and numbers. Following some negotiation and compromises, I can now confirm that **all** Downs Junior children can be involved in this year’s project, which is great news.

Last week the children stunned me in auditions, with their confidence, enthusiasm and talent. There will be a huge number of different roles available in the show, including speaking parts and solos. These roles will be determined throughout the rehearsal process. (The children in the backstage crew and orchestra **do not** need to attend rehearsals until the summer term.)

Many thanks to you, for returning the initial form, and thanks also to those who were able to offer assistance in terms of hosting, or chaperoning, or helping with costumes/sets/props, with promotion and sponsorship, or by playing in the orchestra. I will be in touch with you via email, regarding this, in due course.

I would like to remind you of some **important details** that were mentioned in the initial letter:

* Rehearsals will commence on **Monday 3rd February 15:15 – 17:00** in the hall.
* Attendance is expected at all rehearsals incl. one weekend - **19th & 20th July**.
* The cast from Nairobi will arrive Wednesday 16th July (TBC) and remain in Brighton until...
* Tuesday 22nd July (TBC) when they will move to accommodation in Kingston until they return to Kenya one week later (29th July TBC).
* **Performance dates:** between 23rd and 27th July – confirmation will be received from the festival organisers on 28th February 2014.
* **Instalments** of £50 are due **10th February\***, 3rd April, 3rd June 2014 (£150 total).

**\* *please note the date change***

* No child will be excluded from the Albatross project due to an inability to pay the full cost. If you are in receipt of Income Support, Income-Based Jobseeker’s Allowance, Child Tax Credit or, you have an annual gross income of less than £16,190, please **contact the school office** to discuss assistance.

Many thanks again for your support, and for allowing your child to be a part of this journey and the telling of a story about the 19th century East African black market slave trade. Please remember to check the Albatross page on the school music website for updates:

**w w w . d o w n s j u n i o r m u s i c . c o m**

Don’t hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions.

Musical regards,

Anna Rusbatch