

# Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

Volume 22; Issue 11

**A step back in time** – Year 4 had an Anglo-Saxon day on Wednesday learning about their history theme by taking a step back into the past using artefacts, costumes and high quality teaching resources. I am sure this will be a school day that Year 4 will remember for a long time.

**Reading Rangers** – There will be a meeting on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> December at 2:45 pm for anyone who wishes to help with reading in class.

**Demonstration phonics session** – Early Years parents are invited to a demonstration phonics session in Acorn Class on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December at **9:00 am**.

**School Journalists** – It is almost time for Christmas, cards and presents. We are not allowed to mention the word yet but surely I can write it! The shopping has begun and everyone will soon be having fun. Cards and presents will be given and wish lists will be exchanged. Families will get together, so make sure that you're prepared to have some serious fun! But there is a question I always wanted to know the answer to. Why do we give cards to people we see every day? Why can't we just wish each other a Merry Christmas and exchange a few kind words? Let's think about it before we rush out to buy boxes of cards this year. Let this Christmas be your Christmas of a lifetime!!! Don't forget the kind words! *By Louise Clements*

**Christmas cards** – Despite Louise's suggestion that some people may choose not to give Christmas cards, I know that many children and adults still enjoy writing their good wishes for the festive season. From Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, our school post box will be at the bottom of the stairs, near the lift, for children to post their Christmas cards to staff and friends. Please remember that we have several children with the same first name and all cards should have the surname if possible and the class to make delivery easier.

**Year 4 School of Rock children** – We are delighted that our School of Rock will be performing at a Barnados Concert on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2016 at The Barbican in London and can confirm that we do have space to take all the Year 4 children who have expressed an interest and so ask that their T-shirts are paid for online (£7) as indicated in the letter the children have received.

**Winter footwear** – It is school uniform policy that children should have black shoes, not trainers, as footwear. However, we have had some queries as to whether boots are suitable at this time of year. We understand that this may be the most appropriate type of footwear for the winter and have no problem with children wearing boots as long as they can still sit on the floor for assembly or class learning time with their legs crossed without the boots making them uncomfortable. A solution could be to have lighter weight shoes to change into at school.

**Norfolk Trip** – Reminder for Year 5 parents that the deposit needs to be paid by Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> November.

**Paying for Christmas dinner** – As you are aware, online payments are usually restricted to a minimum of £11 but we are aware that some children will be having Christmas dinner (£3) on 16<sup>th</sup> December who do not otherwise have school dinners. From 7<sup>th</sup> December, we will reduce the minimum payment to £3 so that the Christmas can be paid for online. While the minimum payment is reduced, some parents who owe a small amount may wish to settle their bills as well. Remember that the Christmas dinners must be paid for in advance of 16<sup>th</sup> December, unless your child is entitled to free meals.

**Number bonds and times tables** – Without children having the instant recall of numbers that add to 10, 20 and 100 and their times tables, their ability to carry out calculations quickly is impeded. Over the next

few weeks, we will be putting a lot of effort into teaching and assessing children's abilities in these areas. It would be very helpful to your children if you could also support this with regular practice at home.

**Holly Hobbies** – On Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, Holly Hobbies will be helping the Year 6 children in the classroom with their art. They will be using clay to make coil pots. If you would like to join us, please come to the school at 1:30 pm. Many thanks from the Holly Hobbies team.

**Magical Christmas Grotto Tickets** – Tickets are selling fast! Last time to buy is 2<sup>nd</sup> December online. Tickets will also be available on the evening but only for Mister B, the entertainer.

**Volunteers** – Come and join in the magic! If any adults would like to help at the Magical Christmas Grotto on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December between 2:30 and 5:30 pm, please email [hollytreespta@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hollytreespta@hotmail.co.uk). Help is needed to set up the small hall, decorate grotto, ticket entrance and marshalling. Thank you.

**Cake donations** – We are running a cake stall at the Christmas event and we would love to see some of you talented bakers make cakes for the stall to go with hot chocolate, tea and coffee. Please donate your cakes on Thursday morning and leave in the office. Please put your name and class, or contact number, on the cake boxes so we can return them to you. Please list ingredients used.

**My Art Project** – Thank you to all those parents who purchased their child's artwork for Christmas. The orders were sent off last week and should arrive within 10 to 12 days. They should be in school bags by 7<sup>th</sup> December.

**Headlice** – Please check your children's hair this weekend and treat, if necessary. Thank you.

**Attendance – 97% target** - Congratulations to Beech, Elder, Elm, Holly, Hornbeam, Larch, Laurel, Maple, Mulberry, Spruce and Sycamore for having over 97% attendance since the start of the academic year (September).

**Menu** - Week 2 of the new winter menu. Please see website for details.

#### Letters home

20<sup>th</sup> – Choir Barnado's Concert  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Christmas lunch  
27<sup>th</sup> – Barnados Concert

#### Forthcoming dates

3<sup>rd</sup> Dec – Santa's Grotto after school  
7<sup>th</sup> Dec – Reading Rangers meeting at 2:45 pm.  
9<sup>th</sup> Dec – Y1 dress rehearsal  
9<sup>th</sup> Dec – Y6 – Christmas unwrapped  
9<sup>th</sup> Dec – Demonstration phonics session for EY parents in Acorn at 9:00 am  
11<sup>th</sup> Dec – Y1 play  
14<sup>th</sup> Dec – Y1 play  
14<sup>th</sup> Dec – Secret gift shop  
16<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas dinner  
16<sup>th</sup> Dec - EYFS Christmas sing-a-long  
17<sup>th</sup> Dec – flu immunisation  
17<sup>th</sup> Dec – carol singing  
18<sup>th</sup> Dec – last day of school – children return on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January

#### Congratulations

**Bronze Certificates** went to Connor Bashford, Max Andrews, Isabella Scharvona, Oliver Tinworth, Kitty Forrest-Hopkins, Lucas Sharma, Alexa Stanley and Ben Chad.

**Silver Certificates** went to Neelesh Anpalahan, Maddie Barker, Jake Simmons and Joshua Chege.

**Gold Certificates** went to Rhiannon O'Hagan and Jim Jasionowski

**Pen Licences** went to Scarlett Pallace, Jake Stanley and George Whitehill.

**Headteacher's Award** went to Bobby Burfield.

Well done to the Y5/Y6 tag rugby team who won the local tournament on Tuesday, winning 4-1 against St. Peters in the final. Also well done to the Y5/Y6 football team who played excellently yesterday against St. Mary's winning 4-0. This could become a habit we rather like.