

Weekly Newsletter



Friday, 4th December, 2015

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Reading Rangers – There will be a meeting on Monday, 7th December at 2:45 pm for anyone who wishes to help with reading in class. Research shows that children benefit from reading as often as possible. If you would like to know how best to support reading for your own child, to read with others in school or you may wish to help in school in the future, then come along to our meeting for more information.

Demonstration phonics session – Early Years parents are invited to a demonstration phonics session in Acorn Class on Wednesday, 9th December at **9:00 am**. It is not appropriate to bring toddlers to this session as it is a lesson to support our EYFS children's learning.

Talking to children – There was an excellent article in The Telegraph recently about the benefits of speaking to children in full sentences from an early age. The research cited that children who start school without being able to speak in full sentences that anyone could understand, not just their parents, rarely catch up in their learning by the time they leave primary school. If you have young children and want to help prepare them for school, the best thing you can do is just talk to them.

Christmas jumper day – We are holding our Christmas Jumper Day on Wednesday, 16th December. This means that children are invited to come to school in non-uniform as long as a bright or festive jumper is also worn. We are not asking for any contributions for this event, it is just for fun.

Owl Captains' Fundraising – To kick start our Owl Captains' fundraising for their chosen charities, they are holding a cake sale next Friday, 11th December. Children are invited to bring in cakes on Friday morning and these will be sold by their Owl Captain. If the cakes are homemade, then we ask for a list of ingredients to be included. The sale will then be held at playtime and after school. Cakes will cost a minimum of 20p.

Grapes and cherry tomatoes – We have been asked by the Health Authority to remind parents that grapes and cherry tomatoes can be choked on very easily by young children. If you give your young children these fruits, please ensure they are cut in half (grapes should be cut lengthways).

Year 1 play – We are hoping to see many of you at the Year 1 Nativity Play next Friday or the following Monday. The performances start at 2:30 pm and children may be collected after the play has finished. Please remember admission is by ticket only and no pre-school children will be admitted. Pre-school children may be brought to the dress rehearsal on Wednesday.

Secret Gift shop – Please ensure that you send in your money by Monday, 7th December if you would like your child to buy presents. Please send the money in to the class teacher, cash only, in a named envelope.

School Journalists – On Thursday, 3rd December Santa's Secret Grotto was held at Holly Trees. The elves consisted of Maddie, Jake, Millie, Paige, Zoe and Maisie. The entertainer was from a company called Mister B. The entertainer did magic tricks. At the end of the evening two prizes were given out for the best smiles in the audience. The prizes were reindeer hats. Everyone had a nice time and my Grandma enjoyed it very much.

Norfolk Trip – Reminder for Year 5 parents that the deposit needs to be paid by Monday, 30th 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 16th December who do not otherwise have school dinners. From 7th 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 16th 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, 1st 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.

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 7th December.

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

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

Menu - Week 3 of the new winter menu. Please see website for details.

Letters home

30th Nov – Vision Statement

30th – Y1 – The Nativity

2nd – Y4 – swimming achievement

Forthcoming dates

7th Dec – Reading Rangers meeting at 2:45 pm.

9th Dec – Y1 dress rehearsal

9th Dec – Y6 – Christmas unwrapped

9th Dec – Demonstration phonics session for EY parents in Acorn at 9:00 am

11th Dec – Y1 play

14th Dec – Y1 play

14th Dec – Secret gift shop

16th Dec – Christmas dinner

16th Dec - EYFS Christmas sing-a-long

17th Dec – flu immunisation

17th Dec – carol singing

18th Dec – last day of school – children return on Tuesday, 5th January

Congratulations

Bronze Certificates went to Nathan Chege, Woody Sansom, Douglas Muncey, Fleur Lelievre, Prince Soluta, Alexander Deakins, McKenzie Freight, Albie Berner, Ethan Abrahams, Samuel Eade and Louie Dennison.

Silver Certificates went to Tomas Mason and James Barker.

Rockschool, London RSL Entry Level Award in Popular Music Performance (Debut-Drums) went to Joshua Jones (passed with Distinction).

Headteacher's Award went to Joseph Gamblin.