



Autumn Term 3 Newsletter 20th October 2017

Dear Parents & Carers,

Harvest festival on Wednesday was a lovely celebration and a chance for the children to think about how lucky they are and also to think about those less fortunate than them. Your generous donations made an impressive display as the focus for the assembly and Mr Millar delivered them all safely to the Epping Forest Foodbank immediately after the service. The volunteers from the foodbank asked us to pass on their thanks to you all. Thanks once again to Reverend Mortimer who led the service and to Mrs Lloyd-Morris and the school band who did an excellent job leading the music.

Last week Mrs Mooney and I attended the Independent Schools Association Regional Art Competition. Our entries into the competition included Kitty Lammin's interpretation of Lichtenstein, Beau Wise's Hockney inspired piece and Sophia Saramaka's Sunflowers. The standards of the work in the exhibition were extremely high and although none of our entrants were chosen to proceed to national finals this year they certainly did not look out of place amongst the other work on display. Well done children, we were very proud of your talents!

Open morning last week was a very busy event with a constant flow of visitors throughout the morning. Our year 6 and year 5 guides did a wonderful job as always of showcasing the school and the feedback from the visitors was without exception highly complementary. Well done children, you are excellent ambassadors for the school! Thank you also to Mrs Zimelstern and Mrs Lammin for providing tea, coffee and a warm welcome to all on the day.

The parent information sessions held this half term about phonics and assessment and reporting were very well attended and the presentations from these sessions will be posted on the school website under a new tab in the Parent Information area entitled 'Workshop and Information Meetings'.

I hope that you all have a peaceful break and that the children come back ready for the busy Christmas half term ahead!

Mrs Dear

Staff News

Mrs Donovan will be increasing her hours after half term and will be working on a Friday morning. She will be teaching swimming at Loughton pool alongside our new swimming teacher, Mrs Bayley.

Uniform Reminders

All children should return to school in full winter uniform after the break. Details of correct uniform items can be found on the John Lewis Partnership website.

We are still experiencing many incidents of lost items of uniform and have accumulated quite a collection of unmarked uniform with no names. Please check all uniform items over the break and take the time to label everything clearly with your child's name. Should your child mistakenly take home uniform belonging to someone else it would be very helpful if you could notify the office as soon as possible to avoid lots of time searching in school for things that have been taken home.

Uniform for Junior Games Afternoon

After the break we would ask that **all junior children come into school on Mondays in their full P.E. kit**. As we have all 4 classes going off site for games together this should ease problems with lost kit/uniform and storage issues with so many kit bags in school on the same day. The children can of course still wear their warm winter coats on top of tracksuits.

Diary Dates

Please check the school base calendar on the Portal for updates to events and diary dates.

CHRISTMAS 2017

THE INFANT NATIVITY PLAY for Years 2, 1, Reception and Nursery will be held on Thursday 7th December 2017 at St James' United Reformed Church. All children will be involved in the performance, there are not separate performances for each year group.

Please note that there is no parking at St James' Church

- Doors will open at **9.15am** (no parents before please)
- Concert starts at **9.30am**
- Children will return to school after the concert

THE CAROL SERVICE (Reception – Y6 children) will be held on Monday, 11th December 2017 at St James' United Reform Church. The Service will start at 9.30am and lasts about an hour. This will be followed by the Year 6 Parents' Bazaar in the school hall. All parents are invited to attend the Carol Service and the Bazaar.

PANTOMIME – On Thursday 14th December the whole school (with the exception of Nursery who will be having their own party) will be taken to a pantomime at the Hackney Empire. Children will return to school for 5.15pm and parents should wait in the playground to collect. No children will be dismissed from the front of the school.

Please remember that all clubs are cancelled for December 14th including ASC.

REMINDERS

SCHOOL ENDS ON FRIDAY, 15TH DECEMBER 2017 AT 12 NOON (NO SWIMMING)

NO LUNCHESES ARE SERVED

TERM OPENS FOR CHILDREN ON MONDAY, 8TH JANUARY 2018