

Friday 3rd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Huge thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair last Saturday - from donating items, selling on the day and coming along to support the fair - we raised over £5,000 for our schools which is a great achievement.

It is so wonderful to see parents coming into school again, please let your child's class teacher know if you are able to help in any way. It is always a lovely, busy time of year in school with children learning new songs and getting ready for their Christmas performances. They are all excited and we hope to capture the whole thing and send this out to you before the end of term.

### **Online safety**

We are sure that as you are thinking about presents for your children in the lead up to Christmas there will no doubt be a number of new phones, consoles, tablets and gaming devices in your households. We can't stress enough how important it is to protect young children from material which is not age appropriate. We recently received an update on this and it also applies to Netflix, Amazon prime and even the Disney channel. Attached is a guide and QR codes for further information and support. It is very easy to put restrictions on devices now before gifts are wrapped. Please could we also remind you that if your child is exposed to inappropriate games or material we have a duty to report this to Children's Services. We notice that many young children are given their parent's phones as a 'toy' to keep them occupied, please be mindful that this can also be harmful.

### **Punctuality**

We monitor punctuality closely and record any late arrivals (and collections), and reasons for this, in the register. Please arrive at the classroom door on time every morning, it is unsettling for children when they arrive late into the classroom as they may be confused about tasks that the teacher has already explained to the rest of the class, it is also disruptive to the class and teacher. If the classroom door closed do not open and send your child in, bring them to the Office entrance and complete a late form.

### **Covid**

With the news of a new variant and the re-introduction of some restrictions we are continuing to work really hard on keeping everyone safe here at school. Please continue to support us in this, we all have a part to play. We have suspended whole school assemblies and are maintaining good hand hygiene and ventilation. Staff are also wearing face coverings in communal areas. We notice that most of you are now wearing masks and we are so grateful, thank you.

### **Illness**

Alongside Covid, please be vigilant to other illnesses - we currently have cases of chicken pox in the school and have also seen a number of children with vomiting and diarrhoea this

week. Please note that if your child has either of these symptoms they **must** stay at home for a full 48 hours since their last bout, please be cautious.

### **Uniform**

In order to reduce the risk of Covid transmission we have to ensure that classrooms are well ventilated. This means keeping doors and windows open at times. The rooms do get cold. Please ensure that your children are prepared for this cold weather. Please also name every piece of uniform, including coats. We do try to return things but cannot if unnamed. If you have lost articles of clothing please check the lost property box located in the Year 1 playground. Please also ensure that your child's water bottle is very clearly named.

### **Governor election**

We are delighted to inform you that Tim Sandford has been voted in as our new parent governor. We are sure that he will be a positive addition to our talented and dedicated governing body.

### **Last day of term - Friday 17 December**

This year we have signed up to the Spark book awards and we would like every child to have the chance to read the shortlisted books. We would like to purchase some of the books to ensure that our more disadvantaged children have a copy. On Friday 17th December (the last day of this term) we will be collecting for this cause. This will be a Mufti (non-uniform) day and Christmas hat day. Thank you for your support. A reminder on Friday 17th December we will be finishing an hour earlier, so collection times will be: Reception - 2pm; Year 1 - 2.05pm and Year 2 - 2.10pm

### **Unicef**

As you know we are a UNICEF Rights Respecting school and are working towards our Silver award. We will be inviting you in next term to find out more about the work we are doing and how you can become involved. It is very powerful work and your children are becoming very engaged. Please follow the link to find out about the UNICEF Paddington Postcards. Simply sign up for an £8.00 monthly donation and Paddington will send a personalised postcard and fun, educational activities every month. Perfect for young children to find out about different countries and to learn how other children live <https://www.unicef.org.uk/paddingtons-postcards/>.

In addition please see the attached link which compliments this work and is run by Amnesty International <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/giving/donate/join-reading-rebels>

All children (and adults!) love a new book and they make great stocking fillers. We thought you may find our Amazon book list useful [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/16S8R0JABLCIZ?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/16S8R0JABLCIZ?ref=wl_share)

### **International music - CD request**

The children are really enjoying the lunches in our Rainbow Cafe and we are playing music from different countries every day. If you have any CDs at home with music from around the world, we would love any donations. Thank you.

**Job advert**

Please find attached an advert for a Clerical Assistant/Receptionist at St Johns C of E Primary school.

**Flu vaccinations**

If for any reason your child has not yet had their flu vaccine and you would like them to have it, please find attached information about a walk in clinic on Monday 20 December at Tolworth Recreation centre.

**Love the Ball - Christmas camp**

In case you missed the message earlier today, please find attached the flyer for Love the Ball's Christmas camp.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Warm regards

Janet Berry