

## Dear Parents/Carers

As we move into the season of Advent, please see below all the events taking place which we hope you will all participate in or support.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### AUTUMN TERM

1 Dec	9.20am Whole School Advent Service
2 Dec	3.30pm FOSMAS Christmas Fair
8 Dec	Infant Presentations to Parents 2.00pm Reception Class 2.45pm Year 1 & Year 2
13 Dec	Christmas Lunch
14 Dec	1.05pm St Mary Abbots Church Community Carol Service
15 Dec	9.20am End of Term Christmas Service 1.30pm FOSMAS Christmas Parties
16 Dec	House Team Winners announced Whole School - Storyteller visit - Anna Conomos 3.00pm End of Autumn Term
2 Jan	SCHOOL CLOSED

#### SPRING TERM

3 Jan	PUPILS & STAFF RETURN
5 Jan	9.20am Whole School Epiphany Service

### ADVENT WINDOW AT ST MARY ABBOTS SCHOOL

We are joining together with the Church and local shops and offices in Kensington, to create a Living Advent calendar with the theme of "Peace to the World".

Our date is Friday 9 December at 4.00pm. The window (facing outwards on to the West of the Church) will be unveiled with our Advent display.

On Monday 28 November, all the pupils will bring home a wooden dove and be encouraged to do the following:

1. Paint the dove white on both sides and leave to dry. You could spray it silver instead but **NO OTHER COLOUR**.
2. When the paint is dry, encourage your child to think of a short sentence beginning with the word "Peace .....
  - a) The sentence must fit on one side of the dove.
  - b) The sentence must start with the word **Peace**.
  - c) Suggestions for the sentence could be:  
Peace at home. Peace in Syria. Peace starts with me.  
Peace in school. Peace, perfect peace. etc, etc.
  - d) Please make sure the words are spelt correctly. Write it for your child to copy if he/she needs help.
  - e) Please ask your child to write his/her name and class on the other side of the dove.

- f) Please bring the dove to school at the latest by Wednesday 7 December, so the display can be set up.
- g) On Friday 9 December at 4.00pm the Advent Window will be on display for everyone who passes by to see and mince pies will be available.
- h) The peace doves will remain on display until we return in January 2017 and then be returned to the pupils who can then take their peace dove into the world to "share the peace".
- i) Please do not lose the wooden dove. They were expensive and I have only allowed 1 dove per pupil.

Thank you. We look forward to see our Advent window take shape.

### CHRISTMAS LUNCH - TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER

We have our **Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 13 December**. All those pupils who have a packed lunch can change to a school meal on that day.

Pupils in Reception, Class 1 & Class 2 will not be charged for the meal but you will need to book the meal in advance. Please see office staff.

Pupils in Classes 3,4,5&6 will have to pay £3.00, you will need to book the meal in advance. Please see office staff.

The lunch is very good and all the staff eat with the children which is fun.

On this day the children must still wear their school uniform, but are allowed to wear a hat or headgear for the duration of the lunchtime. All pupils would be asked to contribute a voluntary contribution of £1.00 to their chosen charity **Sentebale**.

If we can raise £250 we can send a child to school. Wouldn't this be a remarkable achievement?

### FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER

In order to ensure that all the children stay with us for the very last day of term to achieve our attendance percentage of 97%, and not disappear to catch early flights, we have organised two special events on the last day.

Anna Conomos a fabulous storyteller will be visiting our school and telling one of her stories.

Also, it is Christmas Jumper Day, so all the children are allowed to wear a Christmas jumper (or something red or green) together with the rest of the school uniform (skirt /girls, trousers/boys). Children will be invited to contribute a donation once again for Sentebale - suggestion of £2.00.



### **TRAINERS IN KEY STAGE 2**

Just to remind all parents who have a child in Key Stage 2, that the pupils are allowed to change into their trainers at break time and lunch time to reduce wear and tear on their school shoes. Each child must however, change back into their school shoes once back in the school building.

### **SCHOOL CD FOR CHRISTMAS**

On Tuesday this week, the children and staff recorded various carols for a school Christmas CD. It was very exciting and everyone had great fun with the recording. Please order your copy in time for Christmas.

### **DENTAL & GP APPOINTMENTS**

Please inform the office staff as well as the class teacher if your child has a dental/doctor or hospital appointment. We have had a few situations whereby one person is aware but not the other. Thank you.

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

**THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER - 9.20am**

Please do come along to our end of term Christmas Service on Thursday 15 December at 9.20am. The whole school will lead with carols and readings and it is a wonderful way to come together for the end of term.

I look forward to seeing you at church.

### **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

I do hope that you are able to come along or are actually helping out at our annual FOSMAS Christmas Fair on Friday 2 December. Helpers are needed to set up from 1.00pm onwards and clear away once it has finished. If you can help run a stall then please see your class representative. The children absolutely love this event so I look forward to seeing you on Friday 2 December. Reception class visit at 3.00pm before the rush with the actual Fair starting at 3.30pm.

### **SCHOOL MEAL TASTER SESSION**

Caterlink held a taster session for parents and governors on Thursday 24 November from 2.45pm until 4.15pm. Thank you to those who came along. I hope that you found the food of a high quality.

### **SCHOOL NURSES SESSIONS**

On Tuesday 22 November, Roddy Montgomery our School Nurse held a session for parents on sleep and bed wetting. Only 4 parents attended. Please let me or Ms Karim know if there are any further sessions you would like to see available. Roddy is more than

willing to lead on any session required and we also have support from Paula Worthington of the Early Help Team who can come into school and lead sessions for parents on a range of topics. Please let us know so that we can set these up for the Spring Term 2017.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHILDREN**

As we come to the end of term with opportunities for you to see your child perform, please be reminded of an earlier newsletter and my plea to parents not to post photographs of other people's children on social media. Please be mindful of other people's opinions and desire not to have photographs of their children on Facebook or Snapchat etc.

### **KS1 CHRISTMAS PRESENTATIONS**

**THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER**

Key Stage 1 classes are performing on two occasions to parents.

**Date: Thursday 8 December**

**Doors Open At: 1.50pm**

**Location: Main School Hall**

**First Performance: Reception class will perform a Nativity.**

**Performance Starts at: 2.00pm**

**Second Performance: Classes 1 & 2 will perform a joint Christmas presentation to parents.**

**Performance Starts at: 2.45pm**

Please note that seating is very limited. If you have a younger child to bring with you, please note that if he/she becomes fractious, you will be asked to leave the hall, so that the enjoyment of others is not impaired.

### **CHILDCARE VOUCHERS**

Childcare vouchers are accepted in payment for clubs.

I hope that all this information is helpful to you and you can now see how busy the next three weeks are. I look forward to you joining us in all the planned events that lie ahead.

**Yours sincerely**

**N Doyle  
Headteacher**