



3rd December 2018

Dear Parents

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December Dates 2018

11th Christmas Performances 9.30 and 5.30pm (Rabbits, Badgers, Snowy Owls)
12th Christmas Performances 9.30 and 5.30pm (Foxcubs, Squirrels, Barn Owls)
13th Christmas Performances 9.30 and 5.30pm (Otters, Hedgehogs, Tawny Owls)
14th Year 2 Christmas Party
17th Year 1 Christmas Party
17th Combined Schools Carol Service 6.30pm at St Mary's Church
18th Year R Christmas Party at 1.30pm
18th Parent Helpers Reflections at 9.15am
19th **Last Day of Term close at 1.15pm for Christmas Holidays**

It was the 1st December on Saturday and the weather for the Christmas Fair was much better than what the forecast had been predicting. Thank you so much for attending, it was great to see so many of you there. The staff from both schools were all helping out in the secrets room, which was a great new addition, I was in there for the last hour wrapping up secret somethings for lots of Mummies and Daddies. It definitely started feeling Christmassy and Horsell Village looked wonderful too.

A huge thank you for the PTA and everyone who turned up early to set up in the rain and stayed until the last decoration was taken down and the last balloon penguin made! There is also a lot that goes on behind the scenes to help make the day go as smoothly as it does, with planning and preparation being a key factor. Thank you all!

We try as much as possible to 'hold off' starting Christmas until the beginning of December, though we have started some Christmas singing and dancing. With decorations going up today throughout the school we will now be in full Christmas mode for the rest of the term. Thank you for all the help with the garlands this morning, all that is left to do is put up the Christmas tree in the conservatory.

Cold weather

We had a cold snap two weeks ago and know at some point it will get increasingly colder. Please remember to send your child into school with their coat every day. The green tracksuit bottoms are part of our school uniform and the children are welcome to wear them every day if they wish. We find that they often keep legs much warmer than tights or trousers! We do ask that if children wear boots to school they get changed into other shoes while in the building, thank you.

Welly Walk money

Our Welly Walk money has all been collected and counted. Thank you so much for all the sponsorship money you have sent in over the last few weeks. We have raised **£925**, which we shared with Save the Children. We have already spent the money on new Maths resources for the children. The Numicon has already been bought for us by the PTA, all your donations do count and make such a difference.

Reading homework

We're sure it will be getting busier at home and at school over the next few weeks. Please could you to keep up the daily reading practise at home every evening. Please sign your child's black communication book when you do this. Many thanks

End of Term Goodbyes

Mrs Dukes starts her maternity leave this week, she was looking very healthy and happy when she came to our Christmas Fair on Saturday. I know she will be popping in and we look forward to welcoming her back in a years' time. Mrs Louise Houston is joining the team and Mrs Wright will be taking on the Early Years leader role.

Mrs Thurling, who working in the office on a Wednesday and Friday morning has a new job at the York Road Project and will be starting there after Christmas, we are very grateful for all she has done over the last 5 years and know she will be missed. We are currently advertising for her replacement.

And lastly, Miss Rachel Smith who is Foxcubs class teacher is leaving us for a career in marketing, we wish her well in her new career. Mrs Sam Hudson will be joining us in January as Foxcubs class teacher.

Parking in December

During the performances and Christmas events please remember that our local pubs and villages have patrons that will be using their car parks. They support our school all year by letting us use their car parks; **please help us support them this month by not parking in the car park during these events.** Also please do not park in the school car park during these evenings.

We hope you like our new 'No Parking' sign that is on the hill in the mornings!

Our Christmas Performances

A guide on what to do when! Please share with those who are coming to watch 😊

The Christmas Performances will take place on the 11th, 12th and 13th December at 9.30am and 5.30pm. This year's performances are in our school hall, we are performing 'Lights, Camel, Action' based around a Strictly Come Dancing theme and the children are singing, dancing and taking part in the show.

Please bring your costume in on 7th December as requested. These will stay in school for the dress rehearsal and we will dress the children for the morning performance. We will then send them home after school so the children can come back to school dressed in their costume ready for the evening performance. For the evening performance please bring your child to the **school's main entrance at 5.15pm** on the day of their performance; you will say goodbye to them at the front door. Please do not arrive early as we will not open the door before 5.15pm and we don't want you having to wait outside.

As always, we are sure these performances will be very well attended. We ask that you **please only come to one performance** and if possible do not bring younger siblings- certainly the site will not be able to accommodate prams or pushchairs; the past has taught us there will just not be enough room. This makes the performances a more enjoyable experience for the whole audience and cast.

You may then enter the school through the hall door, by coming through the car park, to take your seat in the hall. After the evening performance the children will be taken back to their class, and then dismissed. Reception and Year 2 will be dismissed from the library door by the big tree and Year 1 from the main entrance, at the front door.

When you leave by the hall doors, there will be a collection for the Woking Hospice.

iPads and Recordings

We would like to ask that if you are using an iPad to take **photographs or recording** that you stand at the back with the other families recording the performance. We have noticed previously that the iPads being held up have blocked the view for those sitting or standing behind. Many thanks.

Please we remind you that you can only use your own child's image when sending by email and using with any other social media tool, such as WhatsApp and Facebook, if there are any other children in these pictures they cannot be shared. **We need to keep all our children safe and some of our children just can't have their images shared outside of school, please help us keep everyone safe.**

Please be ready to join us singing 'We wish you a merry Christmas' at the end.

We look forward to seeing you all at the performances!

Art @ the Station

We are very excited that some of our Artwork from Arts Fortnight is being displayed in the waiting room at Woking station on Platform 5. They are quite fantastic and I'm sure you, and the children, will be pleased with them. They will also be posted on the Arts Society, Guildford Facebook page. The pictures will be returned to us mid Spring.

Reflections for all parent helpers

Any helper, PTA class rep or Reading Partner is very welcome to join us; there are no individual invites. We would like to invite all parent helpers to an assembly on Tuesday, 18th December at 9.15am. If you have helped us in any way (there are too many ways to list), you are very welcome to come along.

Christmas Post-Box

Our Christmas post-box for the children to post their Christmas Cards will arrive on Thursday 6th December and will be positioned outside Squirrels class. The Year 2 children will sort the post and deliver it to each class. Please help them with this task by making sure that envelopes are clearly marked with both the child's name and class.

Christmas Lunch

We will be having our Christmas school lunch on Monday 10th December. Even those who usually have packed lunches can join us for a school lunch.

Christmas Parties

In the last week of term each class has a Year Group Christmas Party. This year, rather than a donation of food for the party, we would like to ask you to provide a party box of treats for your child.

What we are imagining, for example, is a small Tupperware container (the size of a takeaway container) with some crisps, biscuits, carrot sticks, grapes and sweet in for your child. Please label this container so we can match it up to the right child and return it after the party.

This is a snack after the children's usual lunch so doesn't need to be 'meal' size. Our hopes for this change is, by parents providing enough for just their child, to reduce the amount of wastage we could have. Please also remember we need to remain 'Nut Aware' and ask that children do not bring nuts into school. Thank you for your help in this matter.

On the party day itself your child can bring in a change of clothes for the afternoon. Please send them in a named carrier bag.

Combined Carol Service - Monday 17th December

The Combined Christmas Carol service involves the 3 schools in Horsell: - us, Horsell C of E Junior School and Woking High School. We are inviting some Year 2 children to join us in the singing, this letter will come home shortly. Everyone, however, is welcome to attend this popular service, in the church.

Governor Update

At our Full Governing Body meeting this term, Mrs Helen Fox stepped down as Chair; we are delighted she will be staying on as a governor and holding the role of Chair of the Children and Learning Committee. We'd like to thank her for all her commitment to the school in her various roles and are very pleased she is staying on the board. We also need to said thank you and goodbye to Martin Killer whose term of office came to an end, as did Martin Humphrey's who stood down in July.

We are delighted that Mrs Davina Holland will be our Chair of Governors for the coming years, ably supported by Mrs Katherine Edwards as Vice Chair and the rest of the governing body.

In January we will be looking for a governor with a financial background to work along with our skilled Resources Committee. If you are interested, please let us know via the office.

Warmest wishes,

Elaine Cooper