



Headmistress: Mrs Z. Sylvester

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3rd November 2017

Dear Parents

I hope that everyone enjoyed the half term break and have settled back into the routine this week. The next few weeks will be very busy in school with the run up to Christmas.

Christmas Concerts

For your diaries, I wanted to give plenty of warning of the Christmas concerts for parents. The children will have the opportunity to sing some festive songs, with Gareth Sparkles, and to meet Father Christmas. They will run at the following times on Friday 8th December.

10.45am for Class 2,3 & 4AM

11.20am for Class 6 & 7

11.55am for Class 5 and Reception

2.45 pm for Class 2,3 & 4 PM

The children will enjoy a party in their classrooms on the day, ahead of the concerts. Once the concerts have finished and the children have seen Father Christmas, we will wish the children farewell for the Christmas holidays.

School Visits

I made a visit to St Margaret's School this week and met with the charming Principal, Mark Webster. It was heart-warming to visit such a small school with just 160 pupils ranging from age 4-16 years old. The ethos of the school is very much family orientated where the girls are clearly nurtured and offered a curriculum tailored to the children's individual needs.

Fireworks Night

I am sure that many of you will be planning to enjoy some fireworks this weekend. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that injury figures support the advice that the safest place to enjoy fireworks is at a large public display. The following link offers some practical safety advice, in case of interest.

<https://www.rospa.com/home-safety/advice/fireworks-safety/>

Parent Reps Meeting

We held our first parent reps meeting this week, with the half day parents. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet and discuss some of the exciting things that may be planned over the coming year. Full day parent reps will be meeting on 13th November and your reps will keep in contact and update you through WhatsApp.

Curriculum News from Miss Belzer

The children have been making very good progress in phonics and are enjoying practical games and activities.

The initial concept of phonics is concentrating on developing children's listening and sound association skills, developing the skills to be able to hear and say sounds in words.

The half day children are enjoying playing a range of circle time games to explore sounds and are being introduced to alphabet sounds. The aim is for the children to become attuned to sounds and begin developing the skills to hear the sound at the start of a word.

The full day children are consolidating their letter recognition and are exploring blending. This is when children say each sound that makes up a word and merge the sounds together to hear and say the word.

To support your child at home you may like to try the following game at home.

- **Wizard's Magic River** - Prepare a box/tray with small objects or pictures from around the house (e.g. a peg, bag, cup, pen, cap, pan, jam, mat). Say the words...'*Wizard, Wizard can we cross your magic river?*' Ask your child to repeat this and to memorise the sentence. You are now the Wizard! Let your child say the sentence to you and you reply saying...'*only if you give me the ...*' /p/ /e/ /g/, saying each sound clearly for the child to hear the word peg. Repeat with all the objects in the tray.

Parking Complaint

I would like to please remind parents to not park in the disabled bay opposite the school, in Greencroft Gardens.

Class 4 News

Class 4 have welcomed autumn by bringing in multi coloured leaves and twigs which were used to make a nice warm place for Harry the hedgehog to hibernate. We learnt why some animals and insects in Britain need to 'sleep' through the cold autumn and winter months. In contrast to the quietness of hibernation, we learnt about Guy Fawkes and fireworks. We made loud sounds with instruments to make believe we were fireworks by jumping and swirling around.



Yours sincerely

Mrs Sylvester
Headmistress

Proprietor:
Mr. B. J. Berkery