



Telephone | Ffôn: 02920 499549 📞  
Email | Eboost: [roathparkprm@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:roathparkprm@cardiff.gov.uk) ✉️

Ref: ActingHT/December2

Date: 16.12.2022

Dear RPPS Families,

Just over a week to go until Christmas! On behalf of our wonderful team at Roath Park Primary School, I just wanted to say a huge thank you for your continued support throughout this year.

Next week in school we will begin to wind-down and enjoy the festive celebrations. Please don't forget that **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December is an INSET Day** where staff will be on-site but school will be closed to pupils. Other dates for next week can be found below.

### **Christmas Concerts**

One word... OUTSTANDING! Our Christmas Concerts are always a high point in the school year but this was made even more magical by the fact we've waited two years for them to return.

It was a privilege to welcome our families back into school. We hope you enjoyed the shows as much as we enjoyed putting them together and performing for you. Collectively, our children and staff achieved amazing results – we are very proud of them all for their efforts.

The great news is that we have two more concerts to go. These are both next Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December where Nursery AM will perform at 10am and Nursery PM will perform at 2pm. Both performances will take place in the Nursery. Miss Smith has shared further information about this event on her Nursery newsletter.

### **Next week (final week of term)**

Please see next week's events listed below;

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

- Nursery AM Christmas Concert at 10am (see Schoop for further information)
- Nursery PM Christmas Concert at 2pm (see Schoop for further information)

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

- Christmas Parties in class (see Schoop for further information)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

- INSET Day (school closed to pupils)

### **Christmas gifts for staff**

We have been asked whether we are accepting Christmas gifts from families. As a staff, we want you to know that we do not expect to be bought any gifts for Christmas this year. Our biggest wish is for everybody to enjoy a happy and healthy Christmas break.

“Living Together, Learning Together, Growing Together” | “Byw Gyda’n Gilydd, Dysgu Gyda’n Gilydd, Tyfu Gyda’n Gilydd”

Acting Headteacher | Pennaeth Dros Dro: Mr. Lewis Fitzgerald

Acting Deputy Headteacher | Dirprwy Bennaeth Dros Dro: Ms. Jane Marker

Website: <https://www.roathparkprimaryschool.co.uk>

Official Twitter: @roathparkprm



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### **Election of Parent Governors**

We are looking to appoint Parent Governors to our Governing Body team. The role is essential in terms of the leadership and strategic direction of our wonderful school. It will require your presence at around 6-10 evening meetings per academic year. Successfully appointed persons would be required to fulfil a 4-year term of Parent Governor support.

In the first instance, I am asking for anyone interested in this position to complete the form entitled 'Election of Parent Governors Jan 2023' which can be found on Schoop. This was sent on 16.12.2022 – the form will close next Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 12pm. The process of our community voting for Parent Governors can then take place over the Christmas period.

I wish to thank our Parent Governors who are currently in the role and whose 4-year term is coming to an end. Your support and challenge has been welcomed and you have had a profound affect on the continual improvement of our school.

### **New 'Friends of Roath Park Primary School' community group**

Our previous Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) volunteers have provided great support to us for many years. They have organised brilliant events for the children and helped to raise funds for our school community which have been used to benefit all pupils.

We are really keen to establish a new community group with the same aims under the new name of 'Friends of Roath Park Primary School'. If you are interested in being part of this team (some parents have already spoken to me about this) please complete the form entitled 'Friends of Roath Park Primary group' sent 16.12.2022 on Schoop.

### **Family Planner 2022/23\***

All important dates and events can be found on the Family Planner (link below). These are subject to change but we will resend the document if changes are made.

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/roathparkprimaryschool/UploadedDocument/5c3fdcc0-a156-4952-9311-fa354c3bf19c/family-planner-2022-23.pdf>

### **School meals\***

We are still waiting for appliances to be delivered, emergency lighting to be installed and a roller shutter to be installed correctly in the existing kitchen. It has been agreed that this work needs to be completed before we can offer paid school meals across the school. I still haven't received an update on this from the Local Authority and will be chasing it up again before the end of next week.

Earlier this week we began the process of switching all children currently having school meals (Reception and Free School Meals pupils) onto the ParentPay system. Activation letters have been sent to email addresses.

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### **Help for families\***

We fully understand that the rising cost of fuel, food and other daily essentials has and will continue to put an enormous strain on families in our learning community. We want to help anyone who is affected by the rising cost of living by offering discretionary guidance and support. So far, we have done this by; taking families to food cooperatives, providing pre-loved school uniform and essentials and liaising with local charities / organisations to obtain vouchers and other goods.

After half-term we will be publishing a strategy on how we can support you in the near future. It is important that you let us know if you require some help with accessing food or reducing costs in your home. Mrs. Ivens's email address is [sivens@roathparkprm.co.uk](mailto:sivens@roathparkprm.co.uk)

Further information and guidance is also available from the Welsh Government website:

<https://gov.wales/get-help-cost-living>

### **Attendance and punctuality\***

After Christmas we will resume our mission to improve attendance and punctuality at school. The benchmark for attendance across the school is 97% which equates to attending school on 189 days out of a possible 195 days.

We do, however, understand that illness and sickness has peaked this year and are still encouraging parents / guardians to let us know if their child is unwell.

### **School Successes**

**Charity fundraising:** Seren in Year 4 raised just over £350 for the Crisis charity who help people experiencing homelessness. She ran a half marathon in stages – 2km every Sunday for 11 weeks. An amazing effort for an essential cause.

**Charity fundraising:** Charlie (Year 3) and Molly (Year 1) took part in the Calon Santa Dash, a charity event to raise money for heart screening in Wales. They ran the race with their Mum and Dad – photographs of the family were used on the front page of the South Wales Echo.

I will write to you next week with information about help for families over the Christmas period, who to contact in the case of an emergency and arrangements for the start of Spring Term.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr. L Fitzgerald  
Acting Headteacher

*NB: \* shows regularly communicated items*

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