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Ref: HT/Dec2

Date: 18.12.2023

Dear RPPS Families,

Just like that – we are into the final week of this calendar year. Please remember that **Friday 22nd December** is an **INSET day**. Staff will be on site but the school will be closed to all pupils.

Reception, Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas concerts were again hugely successful last week. Well done to all children and staff involved. Thank you for supporting your child to learn their spoken parts and songs – I hope these are not ringing in your ears for too long! This week will see our series of concerts draw to a close with Year 5 and Year 6 taking to the stage at **2pm** and **6pm** on **Tuesday 19th December**.

I will write to you again later this week with some messages ahead of the Christmas holiday break.

Friends of RPPS PTFA – Winter Fayre

Thank you to everyone who supported the Friends of Roath Park Winter Fayre last week. It was lovely to see so many people come and visit the wide range of stalls and games whilst enjoying the festive food and drinks on offer. We would not be able to run any events without the support of our volunteers and staff who provide their time and energy to make the events happen and would like to thank them all for the contributions they made. Our Friends of RPPS committee are still totting up the final amount but whatever this figure ends up being, it will be for the benefit of all of our children at Roath Park Primary.

Christmas cards for children

If your child would like to post a Christmas card to a friend in their class or any other class, they just need to write their friend's name, initial of last name and class e.g. "Thomas F – Class 2B" and it will be delivered on their behalf.

The deadline for all Christmas cards to be brought into school is **Wednesday 20th December**. This way we can ensure the cards are safely delivered in time for Christmas.

Selection boxes

Mr Matthew Haines (a former parent and long-term friend of the school) has provided selection boxes for all children at Roath Park Primary School. The selection boxes are labelled with a Christmas greeting from Haines Contractors and are incorrectly marked as non-halal. The selection boxes are suitable for all including vegetarians. Your child will bring home their selection box this week.

We would like to say a huge thanks to Mr Haines for his generosity and kindness.

"Living Together, Learning Together, Growing Together" | "Byw Gyda'n Gilydd, Dysgu Gyda'n Gilydd, Tyfu Gyda'n Gilydd"

Headteacher | Pennaeth: Mr. Lewis Fitzgerald
Deputy Headteacher | Dirprwy Bennaeth: Ms. Jane Marker
Website: <https://www.roathparkprimaryschool.co.uk>
Official Twitter: @roathparkprm



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Christmas gifts for staff

Some parents have asked staff what gifts they would like for Christmas. We really appreciate your kind thoughts and sentiments but do not expect gifts from families. Our only wish is for you to enjoy a happy and healthy Christmas break with your family.

Christmas Parties in class – Thursday 21st December

Christmas parties will take place in classes on **Thursday 21st December**. We kindly ask that your child brings in food either for themselves or to share with their friends in class. Some teachers have communicated this separately in their class newsletters so please check these too. Any leftover / unopened items will either be returned home or donated to local food banks. Please do not provide any foods which contains nuts.

Missing reading books

Mr. Newbury has recently completed an audit of our Oxford Reading Tree books scheme. Unfortunately, there are lots of books missing. We have found some in school but believe lots were sent home and have not returned to school. Please could you check and return any books by **Thursday 21st December**.

School meals

The Universal Primary Free School Meal (UPFSM) rollout is currently up to Year 4 and will include Year 5 / Year 6 in Spring Term 2024. I will communicate more information about this in the new year.

Attendance and punctuality*

Where a child does not come to school and we haven't received a call, email or voicemail we will be contacting parents straight away as part of our 'first response' strategy. We urge all parents to contact us if your child is unwell or cannot attend school and we will assist you where we can.

It is also VITAL that your child arrives to school on time. Our class registers will be shut at 9.05am meaning that any pupils who arrive after this time will be marked as absent or late. The benchmark for attendance across the school is 97% which equates to attending school on 189 days out of a possible 195 days.

Requesting holiday leave

Requests for holiday leave should be made to me via email. Please include the following details; purpose of visit, location of visit, dates of visit. My email address is LFitzgerald@roathparkprm.co.uk

Where Roath Park Primary and Cardiff Council do not know the whereabouts of your child, we will investigate. Cardiff Council regulations state that if the pupil is absent for over **20 school days** and hasn't returned from their holiday and is not back in school on day 21 then the regulations permit schools to remove the child from their register.

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School successes

Karate: Noor (Year 2) won two trophies for working hard in karate throughout the year. One trophy was for 'Most Improved Samurai'

Climbing: Alesha (Year 3) achieved a Level 1 'New Climber' certificate at Boulders.

Swimming: Sam (Year 6) won a magnificent trophy for coming 1st in a regional Cubs swimming gala earlier this year.

Kindness and Respect: Children from Year 3 to Year 6 designed and made Christmas cards for residents at Penylan Nursing Home. Our Year 6 Rights Respecting School committee (Daisy, Hvean, Safaa, Niyaz, Noah, Phoebe, Ibrahim. A, Maher and Hareem) visited the residents to join in with singing and playing board games.

Kinetic Theatre: Lucie, Cara, Meredith, Nancy, Eden, Clemmy (Year 3) Jake, Lucas, Gruff, Tom (Year 4) Martha (Year 5) and Daisy (Year 6) all took the stage to perform in 'A Kinetic Christmas'. I am reliably informed the show was fantastic!

Gymnastics: Alicia and Fran (Year 6) took part in a gymnastics competition and won several medals for the tumble, reach and trampolining events. Alicia placed 3rd overall and Fran placed 6th overall.

A huge well done to each of you for your fantastic achievements – we are extremely proud of your efforts inside and outside of school. If I have missed anyone who has recently picked up an award, certificate or achievement outside of school please contact me with details
LFitzgerald@roathparkprm.co.uk

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mr. L Fitzgerald
Headteacher

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