

The King's Church of England Primary School

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15th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Life

Reception and Year 1 and 2 Nativity Performances

The whole school community have been treated this week to the wonderful Nativity performances from our youngest children. On Tuesday and Wednesday, Years 1 and 2 performed to parents and carers and this morning Reception performed to their parents and carers. In between times the children had shared their singing and dancing talents with the rest of the school.

The children spoke with confidence and sang with enthusiasm and joy, and it has helped us all get closer to the meaning of Christmas of sharing our love with one another and being thankful for what we have been given.

I know all the teaching staff have been very proud of how the children have conducted themselves during their rehearsals and during the live performances themselves, and it has been lovely to see so many parents, carers and family members come to see and support the children. I would like to thank all the staff who have helped the children with their performances and to Mrs Noyes for all her time teaching the children their songs and playing the piano. My thanks too also go to Reverend Melanie and Reverend Hannah for sharing a prayer and blessing for us at the end of the Year 1 and Year 2 performances.

Year 5 and 6 Visit to the Rose Theatre

On Wednesday Years 5 and 6 went to see a production of Peter Pan at the Rose Theatre in Kingston. Despite the cold weather and having to use public transport coming back to school during rush hour, they very much enjoyed the show and the teachers reported back that they behaved really well at the theatre.

Next Week's Christmas Service and Carol Concert

The children are looking forward to their visits to St Anne's Church and thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to walk with the children on Monday. Year 6 have been practising and rehearsing their self-composed Christmas carols and they are looking forward to performing them at the Carol Concert on Wednesday.

Admission to Communion Meeting

Thank you to the parents who were able to come along on Wednesday this week for the Admission to Communion meeting that Reverend Melanie organised. We wish all the children who will be taking their First Communion all the best as they embark on this important milestone with their faith.

Parent Helper Tea

We were able to say "thank you" to some of our regular Parent Helpers who came to the school this afternoon for a cup of tea, some mince pies and to listen to the Year 6 Christmas carols. They were served their mince pies by our Year 6 House and School Captains. My thanks to Mrs Morris, Mrs Barraclough and Mr Rooney for their help in organising the event.

We appreciate that not all our Parent Helpers were able to join us this afternoon due to other commitments, so on behalf of all the children and staff at The King's School, thank you for all you have done to help and support us this term.

Parent Survey

Thank you to all the parents and carers who took the time to complete the Parent Survey. We have had over 60 replies, which has been really encouraging and we will let you know the name of the class that had the most responses next week.

The results and comments from the survey will be looked at by the Senior Leadership Team and Governors to assess the feedback and look to see where we can make improvements in what we do. We will share the results with you in the New Year. Thank you again for your valuable feedback.

Governor Fund Update

Hopefully you will have seen a letter this week from Mr Kennan Michel, our Chair of the Governor People and Resources Committee, along with some information slides that were used at the recent Parent Briefings. If you haven't had a chance to read Mr Michel's letter and have a look at the slides, I would urge you to do so in order that you can gain an understanding of the financial pressures the school is currently facing.

It is very much appreciated the financial pressures families are facing at present, but if you are in a position where you can make a contribution to the Governor Fund, no matter how small, it will be gratefully received. You can find information about the Governor Fund, along with the bank details, on the school website:

<https://www.kings.richmond.sch.uk/page/?title=The+Governors%27+Fund&pid=562>

Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to the Fund already and to those families who have set up a regular monthly standing order into the Fund.

Have a restful and relaxing weekend.

Mr Corke

Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor to help manage the lunch hall on Mondays and Fridays. This is a paid role, working for an hour per day, ensuring that lunchtimes run smoothly and happily. If you are interested, or know anyone who might be, please contact the office or email jobs@kings.richmond.sch.uk We will follow our normal Safer Recruitment procedures for this vacancy, including a full career history, two references, and Enhanced DBS check.

Attendance

Here are this week's class attendance ratings - Well Done Oak Class!

Attendance Ratings	w/e 15 th December
Holly	96.41%
Willow	97.55%
Cherry	95.36%
Fir	97.11%
Maple	94.25%
Oak	98.06%
3JB	97.37%
3NB	94.99%
4ER	95.54%
4AC	93.96%
5SC	96.76%
5AM	96.16%
6GD	95.65%
6MS	93.95%

Reminders

Spring Term Extra-curricular Clubs Sign Up

The closing date for signing your child up for a Spring Term extra-curricular club is midnight on 8th January

PSA England International Rugby Ticket Raffle

Thank you to the many parents who have bought raffle tickets for the two pairs of tickets for the England vs Wales and England vs Ireland 6 Nation matches at Twickenham next year. If you haven't bought any raffle tickets yet and would like to do so, you can pay for them via Parentmail. Good luck everyone!

Looking Ahead

Whole school Carol Service at St Anne's	Monday 18 th
PC Yazad - Yr2 safe scooting, EYFS stranger danger	Monday 18 th
KS2 Christmas Carol Concert at St Anne's	Wednesday 20 th
Christmas lunch in school	Wednesday 20 th
Last day of term – finish at usual time	Thursday 21 st
INSET Day	Monday 8 th January 2024
Start of Spring term	Tuesday 9 th January

For further dates please see the school website:

<https://www.kings.richmond.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=3,1,2&pid=94&viewid=2>

Fabric Request for our Prayer Tables

As we continue to enrich the spiritual environment within our school, we are reaching out to our wonderful community for support. Currently, our prayer tables lack the vibrant colours associated with the liturgical calendar. In an effort to enhance these sacred spaces, we are seeking donations of green, dark purple, and white cloth, each measuring at least 1 metre in length. We wanted to approach our parent community first. If you have any spare green, dark purple, or white cloth at home, or if you know of any companies that might be willing to contribute to our cause, we would be immensely grateful for your support. If you can contribute please contact Miss Ratcliffe via our info@kings.richmond.sch.uk email as she will be arranging this for all of the classes. Thank you for all your support.



Mayor of London's letter for parents

Please see on the next pages a letter from Sadiq Khan about KS2 free school meals

MAYOR OF LONDON

Date: December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the end of term approaches, I wanted to write to you to let you know how successful our Universal Free School Meals programme has been. I'm pleased to say I've now provided more than 10 million free lunches to primary school pupils in state-funded schools across our city since September. As part of our emergency intervention to help with the cost of living crisis, I'll continue to fund millions more free school meals until at least the end of this academic year, ensuring children don't go hungry and saving families hundreds of pounds.

I'm doing this because I know many parents and carers are desperately struggling with the cost of living right now. As someone who received free school meals myself growing up, I know they can be a lifeline to people who are finding it hard to make ends meet and that they can also help children concentrate in the classroom and reach their full potential.

As Mayor of London, I also fundamentally believe that feeding our children shouldn't be an optional luxury but should rank as one of our society's top priorities. Making sure our children are properly fed and healthy is vital to building a better London for everyone – a city that is fairer, safer, more inclusive and more prosperous for all.

I've been deeply touched by the heartfelt messages I've received from both parents and pupils, who've told me what these free school meals mean to them. I know times are still tough for many families across London, so I sincerely hope this programme will continue to make a meaningful difference to you and your children, particularly as the days get colder and energy bills remain high.

Even though your child is receiving their free school meals automatically, it is still vitally important – if you have not already done so – to complete your school or borough's registration form in case your child is eligible for extra funding for their school, worth over £1,300 per year, plus any wider benefits for your family. For more information about this and anything else about the scheme, please visit our online hub: <https://www.london.gov.uk/free-school-meals>.



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MAYOR OF LONDON

Families having difficulties with their financial situation can also access advice and support by visiting my cost of living hub here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/communities-and-social-justice/help-cost-living>.

I wish your family a happy and healthy winter break, and I hope your children are looking forward to their school meals when they return in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the name.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London