



7 December 2015

Dear parents/carers

Headteacher: Mr R Halls BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Y3 rehearsing for their end of term nativity play heralds the advent of the end of term – marked so festively with our superb Christmas Fair on Saturday. Thank you to the Friends and everyone who supported this event. It brings to the close a number of events this term that have helped raised some welcome funds for additional items for the pupils and the school.

As with the end of many terms, there are some staffing changes that we are preparing for next week to take effect in January.

Having been unable, at the end of the summer term, like many schools, to fill a vacancy, we were fortunate to find Mrs Wills who has been with us this term teaching Year 4. We couldn't have asked for anyone so dedicated, working long hours, and who fitted so well into our staff team. Having advertised the vacancy during the autumn term, I am pleased to inform you that Miss Williamson will be the class teacher for 4KW in January. I appreciate the changing of key staff for pupils can cause some anxiety for both pupils and parents. We are preparing pupils for this: Miss Williamson will be with us all day tomorrow to spend time with the children to get to know them and for them to get to know her. Parents will have an opportunity to meet her in the spring term. I would like to thank Mrs Wills for her dedication and for the time she has willingly put in to do those 'extras' like running the choir at lunchtime and helping run her class's stall at the Christmas Fair on Saturday. We wish her all the very best at her next school.

Along with the parish, we will also be saying farewell to a governor and regular visitor to our school: Fr Tom Plant. Fr Tom leaves his role as Assistant Curate at St Peter's in early January to take up a role as Team Vicar at a parish in the Diocese of London. Thank you to him for his contribution our governing body, our worship programme and on various trips including residential. He has really been 'part' of our school.

They say an army marches on their stomach. Our school meals service produces on average about 140-150 meals every lunchtime – often nearly 200 every Friday. Not being a very confident cook myself, I struggle to appreciate the pressure a chef must work under with these quantities! Janet Tillet, our catering manager (through Hertfordshire Catering), is sadly retiring at the end of term, having been associated with our school for 18 years!. I can't begin to imagine our school kitchen without her cheerful, calm personality: she will be a hard act to follow! Hertfordshire Catering have secured Belinda Chandler, from another Hertfordshire school, to take the lead of our school meals service in January. I'm confident that our Christmas Lunch on Thursday 17 December will be a most amazing climax to her tenure – if not more than a little emotional!

I would also like to extend my sincerest thanks to all our staff for their hard work this term. The autumn term is always a long, tiring one but we return renewed and refreshed after the Christmas break on Tuesday 5 January.

Not wanting to wish time away, I will take this opportunity to remind you of the 'odd' Easter holiday that schools have this year. We are closed for Good Friday (Friday 25 March) and Easter Monday Bank Holiday (28 March) but the end of term is Friday 1 April (1pm). We return after our Easter break on Tuesday 19 April.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Halls
Headteacher