

19 December 2017

Executive Headteacher: Mr R Halls BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Dear parent/carer

If you've ever been in a totally dark room when the light was suddenly switched on, you'll know it takes a few moments of adjusting before something extraordinary happens: you can see! As your eyes focus, the light gives you the ability to see what you're doing and where you're going. The birth of Jesus was a lot like that: light shattering the darkness like fireworks bursting overhead.

The end of the autumn term is a wonderful time to be in a school, with all its Christmas busyness and festivities – like a massive firework display! I've thoroughly enjoyed my first term working with Victoria School: thank you for making me so welcome.

Thank you, too, to the VSA and The Friends of Thomas Coram for all they have organised and contributed this term to raise some welcome funds for additional items for our pupils and our schools and to build a sense of community and family.

With carols and Christmas songs going round in our head, we've all enjoyed various Christmas productions. My congratulations go to every one of our schools' pupils for the effort and confidence they put into their part – they were all amazing! – and to pupils for the effort they've put into all their learning this term. Well done!

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to Mrs Crozier, Mrs Cutler and our whole staff team for their hard work this term: not only for leading and producing such great performances with their children but for all the work they do every day with our children to enable them to learn, grow and develop.

Both our governing bodies have been working hard this term on how our collaboration could be more effective. Early in January, both governing bodies will formally consult with parents, staff and the local community on a proposal to form a Federation. This is not a merger or amalgamation, but an arrangement where Victoria and Thomas Coram, as separate schools, work together under one, single governing body – it's only a change to the governance structure for our two schools. We will share with you the consultation document, hold information sessions, and encourage you to share your views during the first half of next term.

Before that, we all need a rest, and return refreshed after our Christmas break on Thursday 4 January, 2018.

The Christmas season is more than a story of a baby in a manger – it's a light event! Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Each time we see the twinkling lights of the season, we can be reminded that he is the light of love and forgiveness, and illuminates our pathway to eternal union with God. There's no better Christmas present than that.

Merry Christmas!

Yours sincerely



Mr R Halls
Executive Headteacher