



Hyde Park Infant School

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19th December 2017

Dear Parents,

2017 has been a splendid year with the achievements of 270 children to celebrate and a number of highlights including the recent Christmas production. I am very grateful for the e-mails, cards and messages from parents who have been so appreciative of the hard work and effort that staff put in every day and I thank you for taking the time to contact me. The Christmas cards and messages have been delightful too and I have some home-made favourites that will hang proudly on ribbons in my home.

Miss Skelley

Miss Skelley is moving to a Devon school and will be starting there in January. Miss Martin will be teaching Ash class for the remainder of the school year. We wish every happiness to Miss Skelley in her new school and I know that the children, staff and parents will miss her winning smile and lovely qualities.

Lost property

A large number of sweatshirts, hats and gloves will be outside on tables at the end of the day. Please have a look to see if any of the items belong to your child.

Term dates

Today is the last day of term. **The children will return on Thursday 4th January 2018.** The next holiday break will be in February for the week beginning the 12th.

Home learning (homework)

There will be plenty of opportunities to have fun with learning over the Christmas break so below are a few ideas and I'm sure you will have many more exciting things planned.

- Use Christmas songs to problem solve. For example, in the 12 days of Christmas song you could work out how many legs, how many birds.
- Setting a table gives opportunity for positional language, folding a napkin or equally dividing a chocolate bar or cake can support fraction work
- Lots of opportunities to form numbers correctly and then decorate them with colours
- Estimating the number of sweets in a jar, sprouts in the pan
- Sharing out presents
- Finding the longest and the shortest piece of ribbon and then putting them in order of length
- Please continue to read frequently to your child
- Please encourage them to read to you
- Please play lots of games to help your child learn their phonemes (sounds)
- Please play lots of games to help your child learn to recognise high frequency words
- Please play lots of games to help your child learn their spellings



- When they know their spellings, please encourage children to write for a purpose which could include lists, poems, instructions, stories etc.

Clearly all of the above can have a Christmas theme and is lots of fun too. You will be pleasantly surprised how well your child is able to start the new year if they keep their skills sharp. If you and your child come up with a great Christmas activity/game, please e-mail it to me at school or send it to me at school in January. I have lots of Head Teacher stickers that I would like to give out for some Christmas home learning. Playing snakes and ladders, taking turns and counting all counts as 'home learning' and can be lots of fun. Counting baubles on the tree, the number of Christmas cards, mince pies in a tin etc. Lots of practical things that you do at home over Christmas can really help children to problem solve, gain confidence as learners and have fun!

In addition Y1 and Y2 teachers have sent home projects for the children to research and we look forward to receiving those in the new year.

School dinners

May I remind families that school dinners are free for all infant children. Vegetarian or no pork meals can easily be catered for by Paul, our chef. Have a look at the menu on the school website and help your child to choose a nutritious and hot meal.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and I hope that this holiday brings you happiness in your family festivities and gatherings. I am on Christmas cooking duties but hope to get away just before the new year in my motor home and park up near a beach or forest so I can walk off some of the Christmas excesses!



Yours sincerely,

E.A. Hill

Head Teacher