

Whole School News

Staff News

I am delighted to share with you the lovely news that Mrs Whitten is expecting her first baby in early May and will therefore be on maternity leave for the Summer Term. We are in the process of advertising for her replacement and will keep the parents of Year 3 children updated as to how that appointment is progressing during the early part of the new year. I am sure that you would join me in congratulating Mr and Mrs Whitten and wishing them all the very best.

Enrichment Programme

When you receive the Prep School Calendar at the end of term, you will notice that there are three Enrichment events for the children to attend should they wish to. The events will take place on Monday 15th and 22nd January and on Monday 5th March between 4.45 pm and 5.30pm and are open to all children in Years 3 to 6. The theme for the Spring Term Enrichment sessions will be Science related, with input from our Senior School Science teachers. We will share more details on the content of the sessions when we return in the New Year.

Chinese Club

We are hoping to introduce a Friday Chinese Club from the start of next term. Initially it will trial for three weeks with the hope of this continuing. There will be no charge for the club which will be looking at basic language, Chinese culture, calligraphy and songs. Unfortunately those who already attend a paid club on a Friday would need to give a term's notice but would be welcome to join Chinese Club in the Summer Term.

The Pre-Prep Club (R, Years 1 and 2) will take place at 3.45 pm – 4.30 pm

The Prep Club will take place at 4.45 pm – 5.30 pm.

If you are interested in your child attending please email Bev on b.stone@blundells.org

Collection at 3.40 pm and 4.30 pm on Friday, 8th December

Parking may be limited on Friday, 8th December due to the Festival of Carols. We will endeavor to ensure that the children are at the gate in plenty of time so that they can be swiftly collected at both the 3.40 pm and 4.30 pm collection times. We thank you for your patience with this.

Tuesday, 12th December, 5.30 pm: Carol Service - All Prep School children to attend

The School Carol Service will be held in Blundell's Chapel. This will be held at 5.30 pm on Tuesday, 12th December and it **is compulsory for all pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to attend.** The Prep School pupils will be going straight from school to the Service after a 'Tea' which will be provided by the school. There will be no Prep or Clubs on this evening. After School Clubs will be available for Pre-Prep children. We would be delighted to see all parents and pupils, including those from the Pre-Prep, and any friends and relatives who would like to join us. **After the Service the pupils from the Prep School should be collected by parents from their form teachers outside the Chapel.**

Carol Service car-parking

Please could all parents park their cars on the Blundell's Preparatory School playgrounds or in the Blundell's Preparatory School car park and walk down to the Chapel. Parking at the Senior School will be extremely difficult due to a variety of functions being held there at this time.

Wednesday, 13th December End of Day on the Final Day of Term:

This will be a Christmas themed non-uniform day for the children. Pre-Prep pupils should be collected at **3.30 pm**. Prep School pupils travelling with Pre-Prep children may be collected at **3.30 pm** from the gate by the Prep School playground. The remainder of the Prep School pupils will be ready to leave at **3.40 pm**.

Parental Survey

Thank you to all parents who have so far completed the survey. If you would like to take part please could we ask that you do so by midnight on Monday, 4th December.

Advance notice Parents E-safety meeting Tuesday, 16th January

We will be holding an E-safety session for Parents on Tuesday, 16th January, 4.45 pm – 6.00 pm. We are hoping that many parents will be able to join us. More details will follow in our first iLetter of the New Year.

Stamps for the Goodwill Charity

SRO are collecting stamps for the Goodwill Charity in India which supports destitute and orphaned children so that they receive an education. For every kilogram of stamps we collect, we are able to raise £20.00. When you receive cards through the post this Christmas, please remember to keep the stamps and send them into school!

Pre-Season Cricket

This commences on Sunday 14th January 2018 and continues through to July. It will run from 9.00 am to 10.00 am on a Sunday morning in the Senior School Sports Hall. It is open to both boys and girls from Year 2 – Year 6. You will not need to book and can attend on an ad hoc basis. The cost will be £5 a session. All levels will be catered for and all equipment is supplied.

Charity amounts raised

We are delighted to have raised the following amounts:

Children in Need £354.14

Christmas Market £895.10 This was the amount that the children raised from their stalls and the refreshments and is going towards YoungMinds. Thank you to all the children and staff for their hard work.

If you would like a list of the stall holders at the Christmas Market and their contact emails please pop into the office.

Prep News

Friday, 8th December Clubs

There will be no Clubs running in the Prep School on Friday, 8th December. However, there will be Prep for any child who is unable to be collected at 4.30 pm on Friday, 8th December.

Friday, 8th December, 4.00 pm: Festival of Carols – Choir Members Only

We are delighted to be holding a Festival of Carols with three local Primary Schools: Tidcombe Primary School, St John's Primary School and Two Moors Primary School. This will take place on Friday, 8th December at 4.00 pm in Blundell's Chapel.

All members of the Choir will be expected to take part and will be taken directly from school to the chapel.

Parents are warmly invited to attend. The service will last approximately three quarters of an hour and coffee and cake will be served to the parents and children afterwards in the Marquee behind Big School (accessible through the Dining Hall). At the end of the Festival, we would ask that parents collect their children from outside of the Chapel before going across the road for tea. If you are a parent of a choir pupil and are unable to attend, we respectfully ask that you arrange for your child to be collected after the service from the Marquee. **Could we ask that all parents park at the Prep School. There are some major events happening at our Senior School and it is imperative that everyone coming to the Festival of Carols uses the Prep School Car Park.**

Prep School Christmas Performances

Performances for the Prep School will take place at the following times:

Wednesday, 6th December 10.00 am Years 5 & 6

Wednesday, 6th December 3.00 pm Years 3 & 4

Thursday, 7th December 10.00 am Years 3 & 4

Thursday, 7th December 3.00 pm Years 5 & 6

As the seating is limited could we ask for parents to only attend one of each year group performance. No tickets are required.

Pre-Prep News

Tuesday, 12th December, 5.30 pm: Carol Service

We would be delighted to see all parents and pupils, including those from the Pre-Prep, and any friends and relatives who would like to join us at the Chapel.

Christmas Post Box

The Pre-Prep Christmas post box will be in the Nursery foyer from Monday 4th December for the children to use to send cards to their friends in the Department. It would help our Year 2 children who deliver the cards if all cards could have the full name of the recipient on the front of the envelope along with the name of their class.

Mrs Filmer-Bennett's Absence from School.

Mrs Filmer-Bennett will be out of school on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th December on a training course. Could we ask that all urgent messages are directed to Bev and Gloria in the Prep School Office who will ensure that the information reaches your child's Class teacher. Their number is 01884 252393. Many thanks for your help in this matter.