

The Pinner Park Post



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Christmas Celebrations

As we approach the last week of our school term, our attention will turn even more to Christmas and the fun we can have at this time of year.

Christmas is a special time of year. It's a time for parties, singing, giving and receiving gifts, delicious food, a holiday from school, and much more. Our Year 1 children, in their Christmas performance of 'Happy Birthday Jesus', have also reminded us of the very first Christmas story.

This is our last newsletter of 2019. On behalf of the staff and governors, I want to wish you a very happy Christmas. We also want to thank you for your support over this term – it is very much appreciated.



We hope you have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes,

Nick Waldron

Headteacher

End of Term – Thursday 19 December



Our Autumn Term finishes next week. Thursday 19 December will be the last day for children.

Please remember that school closes at 2pm on Thursday.

The new term starts on Monday 6 January.

**Christmas Lunch is next Wednesday
Please order through ParentPay today so that we
can plan our numbers for this special meal.**

Christmas Performances

Thank you to those children who have already sung, danced, spoken or acted in one of our Christmas performances. Great job! Thanks also to all the staff who have worked hard to help the children prepare for their performance.

Last week, our Year 6 children participated in a carol service alongside year 6 children from a number of local schools. They represented our school community really well. Well done to Isabelle, who performed a violin solo as part of the service.

Next week, the following performances will take place.

Reception Christmas Singing

Monday, 16 December, 2.30pm

R Chestnut and R Oak

Tuesday, 17 December, 2.30pm

R Birch and R Willow

Year 2 Christmas Singing

Wednesday, 18 December, 2.30pm

2 Birch and 2 Chestnut



If you are unable to arrange care for younger siblings at these times, please be prepared to take them out of the hall if they become restless or noisy. I know this is difficult but some of our children have tiny voices (compared to the somewhat louder voices of a crying baby or unsettled infant!) Thank you for your support with this.

We are happy for you to take photographs of your child, but please do not share these online in any way (including social media). Thank you for respecting this.

News in Brief

Fruit snacks: Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are asked to bring in a fruit or vegetable snack to eat at playtime. We do not permit any alternatives to fruit or vegetable (for example; biscuits, crisps, Frubes or Fruit flakes).

Additional Funding: To find out whether your child qualifies for free school meals, and hence whether the school would receive additional funding, please fill in the details requested on the [Free School Meals Eligibility Checker](#).

Christmas Cards: Our Christmas Post Boxes are now open. We ask that children write one card to their class, rather than individual cards. We will reserve some time each day to open the cards, read them out, and then hang them up in the classroom for everyone to see. Please do not send in cards for individual students as we will be unable to distribute them. Thank you.



We're recruiting SMSAs (Lunchtime Supervisors)



We are recruiting some lunchtime staff to join our team. Our lunchtime supervisors help our children to have safe, happy lunchtimes – supervising the children in the hall and supporting their play outside. For further details, please look at our school website: <http://pinnerpark.harrow.sch.uk/job-vacancies.html>

Times Tables Rockstars and Numbots

We have two fantastic online resources to help children to learn and practice their mathematics at home.

[Times Tables Rockstars](#), which is available for all children in Year 2 – 6, is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times tables practice. From the start, children practice times tables alongside the associated division facts. Children are encouraged to become more and more accurate, as well as faster and faster so that their knowledge of these facts become automatic. As well as the online portal, there are apps available for different devices. We'd like every child to work towards becoming a Rock Star!



[Numbots](#), also from the team who created Times Tables Rock Stars, is a highly engaging platform for learning to add and subtract. We are making this available for children up to Year 2. NumBots is all about every child achieving the 'triple win' of understanding, recall and fluency in mental addition and subtraction, so that they move from counting to calculating.



Both platforms will help children to make rapid progress in these areas of mathematics – please encourage your child to have a short play each day. The 'little and often' approach really works! Please don't be tempted to give your child the answers – the platform is designed to move the children on at the right pace, with plenty of repeat practice, and we don't want things to get too challenging too soon. Remember: practise makes progress!

Christmas Jumper Day – Next Wednesday

We're supporting Save the Children this year by taking part in Christmas Jumper Day. We're choosing to do this on Wednesday 18 December to tie in with Christmas Lunch day,

Children, and staff, will be invited to wear a Christmas Jumper instead of their Pinner Park sweatshirt in return for donating £1 to the 'Save the Children' charity. Please send the £1 in to school with your child – class teachers will collect the money at registration.



By taking part, you're supporting the charity to help children build a better future. Thanks for your support.

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Governing Board Update

Schools are autonomous institutions with responsibility for their own budgets, maintenance and direction. People with skills and experience from the world of work, or experience as a parent, can help tackle these issues successfully, adding a new perspective to the decision making process.



School governors make collective decisions as part of the governing board, whose primary function is to help raise the educational standards and performance of a school by supporting the work of the headteacher and staff.

Some of the things expected of governors include:

- Promoting high standards of achievement
- Overseeing the school's aims, values and ethos
- Setting performance indicators and targets
- Monitoring the performance of the school
- Ensuring that the school procedures and policies are consistent with statutory requirements

Governors govern rather than manage. They are there to give direction and focus by performing a vital strategic role. The management of a school is the responsibility of the headteacher.

The governing body is not a supporters club! Governors take responsibility for the school's performance. They take the role of a 'critical friend' to the head and staff, offering both support and challenge. Part of the role is to recognise problems and to tackle them.

On behalf of the school, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Governing Body for their continued hard work and dedication to a job that often goes unnoticed.

We want to welcome Claire Atogdina to the Governing Board. Claire has two children at Pinner Park and is a new parent governor. The updated list of governors is as follows:

Bijal Ahmed	Parent Governor	Priya Mehta	Co-opted Governor
Claire Atogdina	Parent Governor	Bernadette Mills	Co-opted Governor
Karen Coxon	Co-opted Governor	Sadhana Patel	Clerk
Claire Edwards	Associate Member	Rahul Sareen (co vice-chair)	Co-opted Governor
Sue Flaherty	Co-opted Governor	Bhavin Savla (chair)	Co-opted Governor
Karen James	Associate Member	Harshini Selvendran-Bala	Co-opted Governor
Philippa Jardine	Associate Member	Reena Shah	Parent Governor
Chris Lewis	Staff Governor	Rehna Tanna	Parent Governor
Bhumika Mehta (co vice-chair)	Co-opted Governor	Nick Waldron	Headteacher

Over the next term, the Governing Board will be considering a new vision statement for Pinner Park Primary School. We will be seeking your views on this, so please be 'watch this space' for opportunities to provide your feedback.