

# The Pinner Park Post



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## Deck the Halls...



You may have spotted the Christmas decorations which have been appearing around the school this week. I am grateful to all the children and staff who have helped to make our school so festive.

We have a Christmas tree in each of the school halls. Prince Albert (the husband of Queen Victoria) brought, from his own country of Germany, the tradition of having a decorated Christmas tree, and this tradition soon spread across the country.

One of the best-known Christmas trees stands in Trafalgar Square in London. Each year a huge fir tree is shipped over from Norway - a present from the Norwegian people, in gratitude for Britain's help during the Second World War.

It is thought that 500 years ago, Martin Luther (the German church reformer) was the first to put candles on a Christmas tree. He said that the lights would remind people of the stars that shone above Bethlehem on the night of the birth of Jesus.

We hope you have a great weekend!

Best wishes,

*Nick Waldron*

Headteacher

## Follow the Yellow Brick Road...

Our children were treated to a wonderful pantomime performance this week. The 'Wizard of Oz' was retold in our school hall in a highly entertaining and interactive fashion.

The children participated in the story – laughing, shouting, screaming and applauding in all the right places!

We are so grateful to our wonderful PTA for enabling us to give our children an experience of live theatre in this way.



## Christmas Performances

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Some of our year groups are preparing performances for Christmas – from a few Christmas Songs through to nativity plays. We'll give you further details nearer the time but, for now, here is a reminder of the dates and times (and which classes are performing on each day):

### Reception Christmas Singing

Monday, 16 December, 2.30pm

R Chestnut and R Oak

Tuesday, 17 December, 2.30pm

R Birch and R Willow

### Year 1 Nativity

Monday, 9 December, 2.00pm

1 Willow and 1 Birch

Tuesday, 10 December, 9.15am

1 Oak and 1 Chestnut

### Year 2 Christmas Singing

Wednesday, 11 December, 2.30pm

2 Oak and 2 Willow

Wednesday, 18 December, 2.30pm

2 Birch and 2 Chestnut

### Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Music Performance

Tuesday, 10 December, 2.00pm

All Years 3 and 4

Wednesday, 11 December, 9.15am

All Years 3 and 4



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

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**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 Jumper Day:** 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. Please send the £1 in to school with your child – class teachers will collect the money at registration.

**Christmas Lunch:** Our Christmas Lunch will be on Wednesday 18 December. We may have a much bigger take-up of school meals on that day, so we need to plan in advance and place a larger order with Chartwells. Please order your child's lunch on [Parent Pay](#) by Friday 13 December.

**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.

## Times Tables Rockstars and Numbots

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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!

Your children's log in details have been stuck into their reading record books. Let's see if everyone can get started this weekend!

## Ready, Respectful, Safe and Kind – Everyone and Everywhere!

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We have good relationships within our school, and with our local community and neighbours. Our strong relationships are rooted in our desire to be ready, respectful, safe and kind.

On occasion over the last few weeks, we have witnessed a very small minority of parents speaking in ways which do not show kindness and respect when they are outside school at the beginning or end of the school day – within interactions with each other, or with neighbours and members of the local community.

We completely understand that frustration can arise from thoughtless actions, careless comments, poor parking, bad driving and so on. Nevertheless, we would ask that all our school community – children and adults – display the excellent attitudes and behaviours that we see in school all day long. This sends a strong message to our children and also to the members of the local community who support the school in so many ways.

Thank you for your support with this.