



**JOHN RUSKIN
SCHOOL**



Autumn Term
Newsletter 2

Friday 7th December 2018

Christmas arrangements

The Christmas post box will be open in school from Monday 17th December until the end of term. Please remind your child to include both the name and the class of the person the card is intended for the envelope, so that it can be delivered easily.

The class Christmas parties will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 20th December. Children are allowed to wear their party clothes on this day. Please ensure that their clothes are suitable for school, with no items of jewellery worn.

This term's children's reward morning will be on Friday 21st December. Please note that school finishes at **2pm** on this day.

Nativity and carol concerts

Congratulations to all the children in Rainbow for putting on a fantastic Christmas performance of The Jungle Book this week. Your hard work certainly paid off!

This year's Key Stage 1 and Reception nativity will take place at 9.30am, on Tuesday 11th December. The Key Stage 2 performance will be held at 2.45pm on Wednesday 12th December. All parents are invited to the events, where they will be able to join in with the singing of some well-known carols.

Refreshments will be served to parents in the main entrance by the office before the performances.

Santa's Grotto at John Ruskin

Santa's Grotto will be open in the Language Unit hall next week, from Monday 17th – Thursday 20th between 3.30-4.30pm. Places are very limited and tickets will be on sale in advance for each evening. They can be bought for £2, after school in the middle playground.

Year 4 visit to Twickenham

Year 4 were lucky enough to have the opportunity to visit the Twickenham rugby ground, after winning the fair play award at a recent tag rugby competition. They were able to look around the ground where England play their matches, and then watched the varsity match between the women's teams of Oxford and Cambridge universities. Both classes had a great time. Cambridge won 8-5!





A guide to marking

We believe that good marking helps pupils to identify their strengths and weaknesses and improve their work. It also enables a teacher to really know a child's strengths and weaknesses and thus inform their future planning.

Every week in your child's book, some work will be focused marked. In focused marking:

- Work is marked in blue pen and children respond to it in green.
- Some examples of success where the child has met the learning intention, success criteria or personal target will be highlighted in green.
- A next step for the child is highlighted in pink and a comment addressed to the child written at the bottom of the work which helps the child 'close the gap' between what they have achieved and what they could have achieved.
- Time is provided in following lessons for the children to read and respond to the marking. This involves all adults in the classroom supporting the children in the reading and response.

Other marking:

- All work is marked and includes a brief comment relating to the learning objective, success criteria or literacy/numeracy skills.
- Most marking requires a response from the child but this is graduated by age. This can be a spelling or punctuation improvement and indicated through the use of the editing code or with a 'gap comment'.

John Ruskin Winter Disco

This will take place in the bottom hall on Friday 14th December, from 3.45-5pm. Tickets are available from the playground and cost £2.50 adults and £1.50 for children.

Governors' news

At our autumn term meeting:

- We reappointed our Chair (Mark Howarth) and Vice-Chair (John Bulwer), as well as welcoming a new parent governor, Winnie Baffoe.
- Governors reflected upon our recent Ofsted visit. A group of governors were interviewed as part of the inspection, so discussed how we found that experience, though we won't receive the outcome until later in November.
- We discussed our training priorities for the coming year. Governors plan to have a training session on the curriculum, and we also plan to have another joint INSET session with staff to discuss the school's improvement plan.
- We received the fully analysed data showing results from the KS1 and KS2 tests taken during the summer, which the staff-pupil committee had discussed in detail. We talked about the school's improvement priority of reading.

From Emily Wilson, Co-opted Governor

Forthcoming Dates

Tuesday 11th December – Reception & Key Stage 1 Nativity (9.30am)

Wednesday 12th December – Key Stage 2 Carol Concert (2.45pm)

Friday 14th December – Winter Disco (3.30-5.00)

Tuesday 18th December – Christmas lunch

Thursday 20th December – Children's Christmas parties (1.30pm)

Friday 21st December – Last day of term (school finishes at 2pm)

Monday 7th January – Staff INSET day

Tuesday 8th January 2019 – Children return to school (9.10 am)