

## Newsletter January (2) 2018

Dear Parents

Bookings for **this February half-term holiday club** and staff training day on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> close this Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This club was organised as a response to expressed parent demand and its continuation remains dependent upon this. At this moment, given the few reservations we have received, the club is unlikely to run. If it is your intention to enrol your child, please contact Mrs. Spiteri by no later than 12 noon this Friday. A decision as to whether the club is financially viable will be made that day and we will notify you as to whether the club will run before the close of school. It would be an enormous shame to withdraw this provision but the school cannot afford to incur considerable loss as a consequence of poor uptake.

The results of our summer **Parent Satisfaction Survey** will shortly be published to the school website. The responses to our questions were generally overwhelmingly positive. The governors have met to discuss the findings and, where considered necessary, we will seek to address certain areas of provision to improve our offer. More about this to follow through the school website

We are now working on the **'Learning Zone'** section of our website. This area was created with the intention of providing resources for both pupils and parents. During the next few months information will be added to new pages accessible via the home page. This will remain work in progress throughout the year; thereafter it will be regularly reviewed and updated.

You will know from prior correspondence that we are concerned about **the safety of pupils** given the sometimes irresponsible driving habits of some road users outside the school gates. I personally witnessed 15 breaches of

the Highway Code in two sessions spent on the pavement by the pedestrian entrance to the school. These incidents included parking on the bend to obscure the view of approaching vehicles, parking on the zig-zag lines outside the school at drop-off and pick-up times; doing three point turns and u-turns outside the school gates and reversing into the path of children crossing the road with their parents. I appreciate that our school entrances are in the worst possible place on a bend but there is nothing we can do about this. We can however do everything possible to ensure the safety of children and adult pedestrians. I therefore urge all parents to be aware of the hazards cars present and to park and drive responsibly at all times. You will find ample parking space in the car park at the end of Crescent Road in Bethune Park. This leaves you with just a two minute walk to the school. Additionally, please avoid parking over residents drives. I receive frequent calls from irate neighbours about this. Your co-operation is much appreciated and will help us to avoid serious injury to children!

### KS1 'Teddy Bears Picnic at Allianz Park





We held our **PTFA AGM** last Thursday evening. This was a chance for parents to find out about the work of the committee during the past twelve months and their plans for the year ahead. Further detailed information about the meeting will soon be posted to the PTFA page of the website. Committee have already pledged to continue to provide funds for the creative curriculum and sport enrichment programme (£5,500 pa) as well as £3,000-£4,000 towards replenishing our school library. We have plans to refurbish our classroom libraries and improve topic resources. This will be the main PTFA funded project of the year. More information will follow in due course.

My thanks to Simon Gibson whose company, SSP Group PLC, donated **£1,000 to the school** in December. Each year SSP make annual gifts to worthy causes and we were lucky to be chosen for the second year in succession! The school benefits occasionally from such initiatives and we are always hugely grateful for your support in promoting the school when this occurs. Given the financial challenges all schools are facing, we are always appreciative of any financial help we receive. We sometimes benefit too from generous **sponsorship** arrangements from within our school community. We now need to replace our boys and girls football kits and we would love to buy some altar cloths for our school altar. If you or your company were

interested in supporting such plans, we would love to hear from you!

Life in school remains busy. In addition to the great teaching and learning that takes place daily across the school, since the first newsletter at the start of term the following notable activities and events have taken place:

Class forecasts for learning have been published to your class homepage, we have had numerous boys and girls football and netball matches and tournaments; we've had geology and environmental workshops, and outings to the Natural History Museum and the Discovery Learning Centre, Stratford as well as a workshop with the Freshwater Theatre Company. Don't forget to look at the school calendar on the school website to keep abreast of forthcoming events.

#### **Y5/6 Barnet Netball Tournament at Cophall Girls School: Won 1, Drew 2, Lost 1**



