

Message from Margaret

I hope you had a good Christmas and that it was not too stressful. Thank you so very much to everyone who sent Christmas cards and gifts, it was wonderful to receive them.

By now most of you will have seen our new swimming pool. It will be used for the first time this week. Please do remember to ensure that you have named your child's swimwear and towel and that you send it to school on the day your child swims.

Some parents have asked if it would be possible for teachers to write more information about their child's day in the Home/School Book. I would like to emphasise that the book is designed for a very brief exchange of day to day information.

As you can see my monthly news letter has changed. I would be very interested to hear of your thoughts and comments on the new format.

I would like to wish you a very happy New Year.

What's Been Happening

On the 1st December we had a Modern Foreign Language day, with the focus being on Sweden. During the day the pupils enjoyed many different activities, which included recreating the Northern Lights by using glow sticks and apps on the iPad2, making, smelling and tasting traditional Swedish foods, entering a Christmas tree competition, storytelling and listening to Swedish music. The day ended with a whole school assembly with a presentation on all things Swedish. The pupils enjoyed the day.



On 3rd December the PTA organised our Christmas Bazaar which was our busiest ever. The day was a fantastic success and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The event raised a staggering £2,310. We are very grateful to everyone who helped make this event such a huge success, with special thanks to Karen Langley and her dedicated team of helpers.

A disco was held for the whole school on the afternoon of 14th December. The DJ was Roy who is also a volunteer gardener. He was a great presenter playing music which everyone liked.



A few members of the cast performing Aladdin at the Cliffs Pavilion visited the children on Thursday 15th December. The children were keen to have their photographs taken with the cast. On the same day the

children enjoyed their Christmas dinner after which Father Christmas visited every class.



Dates for the Diary

- 11th Jan. Makaton Coffee Morning with Donna Slattery
- 20th Jan. PTA Coffee Morning
- 23rd Jan. Official Opening of the Swimming Pool

13th to 17th Feb. Half Term Holiday

- 24th Feb. PTA Coffee Morning & AGM Committee posts have become available
- 8th Mar. Parents' Evening
- 12th Mar. Non-pupil day
- 23rd Mar. PTA Coffee Morning

PTA Request

To support us in the purchase of a new minibus, any parent or close relative who is in full time employment with Ford Motor Company please contact Linda Sadler in the office.

The Jack Petchey Foundation

Every term staff and pupils select one pupil from Key Stage 3 for the Jack Petchey Achievement Award. The award allows pupils and staff to recognise the effort, endeavour and achievement of a pupil in a practical and positive way. The winner for the autumn term has received a certificate and was also given £200.00 (payable to Kingsdown School) to spend on a project of their choice for the whole school. The winner chose to see a performance of Beauty and the Beast that will take place at school on Thursday 12th January.

Reminder - Specialist for Eating and Drinking

In my last letter I commented that some parents would like to have a specialist for eating and drinking in Southend. If you are one of these people please will you ensure you send your letter to the office by Monday 9th January.

Riding for the Disabled



On the 1st December our first group of pupils went to Belfairs Riding School where under the watchful eye of the instructor, volunteers and school staff they were first introduced to the horses; Clyde, Dandinni and Saffron. The pupils then had their first horse riding lesson in the indoor school which was a great success.

Many parents have indicated they would like their child to go horse riding, so to ensure that we can include all pupils who are able to attend, during this academic year groups of 8 pupils will ride for a 8-9 week period. You will be given plenty of notice when it is your child's turn to take part. Unfortunately, we are unable to take Ducklings class due to the RDA's age restriction.

New Pupils

We are delighted to welcome two new pupils; one in Ducklings and one in Tigers class.

Information

Makaton Training

Lola Swain is running Makaton Training on Tuesday 17th, 24th and 31st January between 4.00 - 4.30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Paula Malone a SSA went on maternity leave on 4th January.