

Friday 10th December 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been another busy week of assessments; and overall, we have been pleased with how well children have engaged and worked hard to be the best they can be. Well done to everyone!

I feel I have gained a glimmer of festive spirit this week: not only have I heard year groups practise their songs; but today, I also watched the choir performing to executives from Sky. The choir under Nana's direction sang beautifully and they were confident and professional as well. Many congratulations to everyone involved – I was very proud of you all!

Apart from all of that, our school was a mass of Christmas- themed children and staff today: there were Christmas trees, stars, snowmen, sparkles and elves everywhere- and all to support Great Ormond Street Hospital. We raised a grand total of £255 so thank you very much to everyone for their generosity.

Unfortunately, there have been more families out of school this week with symptoms of Covid who are waiting for PCR test results. Whilst there have been some more confirmed cases, there have also been a number who have tested negative and are back in school. Please ensure that you read the guidance later in this letter if you or your child has symptoms in order that we reduce the risk of infection spreading. Thank you.

Dates for next week

Monday 13 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No after-school activity clubs- they have now finished for the term. Extended Club will continue to run Monday – Thursday this week until 5.45pm and on Friday will close at 4.30pm
Tuesday 14 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 4 and year 6 classes taking part in First Aid sessions as part of their PSHE Education (Personal, Social, Health Education) • NB: No Forest School this week for Reception
Wednesday 15 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Lunch (see note later in letter) * • Nursery Governors' Committee Meeting: 10.00am by Zoom • NB No Forest School
Thursday 16 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Christmas Parties (see note later in letter) • Pam's last day at Avondale
Friday 17 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last day of term – children may wear their own clothes! • NB Extended Club will finish at 4.30pm today as it is the last day of term.

***Wednesday 15th December: Christmas lunch for all children:** Our wonderful kitchen staff will cook a traditional Christmas Lunch for all children. If your child usually has a school lunch, you do not need to do anything (!) If your child usually has packed lunch but you would like them to have a school lunch for this day, please go to the school office to inform them. If you pay for your child's lunch, the cost will be £2.30 and we will need to know by Monday 13th December. Thank you.

***Thursday 16th December: Christmas Parties** for all year groups. Children may bring party clothes on that day to change into. In order to reduce the risk of passing on infection, we are not asking for food donations. Instead, we are asking for a donation of £1 and the school will order snacks and party food for each class

***Thursday 16th December is Pam's last day.** As I mentioned last week, Pam will be retiring after a lifetime of being a huge part of our school – as a pupil, a parent and a member of staff- and we will be saying goodbye!

***Friday 17th December: Last day of Term**

Children may wear their own clothes

This will be the last day for Daisy Curry before she starts her maternity leave and for Ellie Jones, who is planning to train as a teacher. We will be writing to parents of Daisy's Class next week so that they are aware of who will be teaching their class from January.

Dates for next term

Wednesday 5th January: Inset Day (Training Day) for all staff: **This is the last day of holiday for the children.**

Thursday 6th January: First day of Spring Term 2022 for children in R-Y6

NB: Nursery staff will be meeting new children and families on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th January so Nursery is not open this week

Monday 10th January: Current Nursery children return to school.

Children starting Nursery for the first time in January 2022 will be given a start date by their teacher

News and reminders

PE and singing

We will continue to film year groups singing their songs next week so we ask that children once again come to school in their uniform every day and not wear PE kit on their PE day. Instead, they can just bring trainers to change into for their PE lesson.

Covid

We have continued to have very low numbers of children in some classes. Some of this is Covid-related, but some it seems are children suffering from 'normal' winter bugs. We have sent messages to any year groups where we have had a child or member of staff test positive on a PCR, as it is only those testing positive on a PCR test who are recorded by the Department for Health. However, there are a number of children and some staff waiting for results of PCR tests; and so our numbers of recorded cases could suddenly increase.

I have taken advice from Public Health England and at the moment, they feel that the additional procedures we have put in place over the last few weeks are exactly what they would advise. As I say, if our numbers of cases confirmed by a positive PCR increases, I will ask for further advice.

In the meantime, I reiterate to parents- if your child has any of the three key symptoms of a high temperature, a new and persistent cough or a loss of taste of smell, please book your child for a PCR test.

If you have Lateral Flow Tests at home, you can of course use a LFT in the first instance, but you will also need to book a PCR test.

Self-isolation

The advice is slightly confusing currently in terms of what you should do if you are waiting the results of your PCR test – due to the new variant.

Please stay at home until you have the result of the PCR test.

If it is negative, you no longer have the symptoms, and you feel well; adults and children do not need to stay at home.

If it is positive and the new variant, we assume that the NHS message informing you of your result will inform you of this. If it is the new variant, it will inform you that you and your household would have to self- isolate for 10 days

If it is positive and not the new variant, the person with Covid has to self- isolate for 10 days but the rest of the family do not.

Covid Plan B- Wearing of Masks

You will be aware that the Prime Minister has announced that Plan B restrictions will be enforced from today. This does not affect primary schools as much as secondary schools, but I ask that **adults return to wearing masks when they are in the playground at the beginning and end of the day.**

If Nursery parents need to pop inside with their child at the beginning or end of the day, we **also request that you wear a mask at all times inside the building**

Christmas Playcentre at Avondale Park School

Please see the message below about the Playcentre at Avondale Park School for the first four days of the holidays:



We are pleased to advise that P3 will be holding a Christmas Holiday Play Centre at Avondale Park School, Sirdar road W11 4EE, with limited places available. The dates will be Monday 20 December to Thursday 23 December from 10am to 3pm each day.

The cost will be £12.00 per child per day and there will be a number of places available that are funded again free via the Holiday activities fund {HAF} which will be for those children who are entitled to a free school meal and must be booked in advance via magic bookings,

Please note the service is For children from Year 1 upwards, also please note if you book a free place please ensure that you child uses the place you have booked. If there are any problems on the day please phone the Playcentre directly on 0800 1968850 free phone. Or 07976 113438

We will be working in partnership with Lunchtime Co (the catering company at the school) and a hot meal will be available at lunchtime for all children who would like a hot lunch.

Activities will be fun and with a Christmas theme to include building a Santa's Grotto with presents and even the arrival of Santa, making of Christmas log cakes and chocolate decorations, Arts and crafts with Christmas theme, Sharky and George party games and a Pantomime on site of Dick Whittington together with the normal play and fun activities of arts and crafts, games, sports, construction, board games and fun.

If you have any questions regarding this holiday please email colin.simmons@p3charity.org

So don't delay register today before all the places are booked.

Thank you P3 Playcentre



News from the Schools

St Anne's Nursery

This week the children have been investigating Black Holes in space, recreating them with black slime, which like a black hole absorbed all in its path.

The tactile exploration and use of subject specific language was wonderful to observe and support.



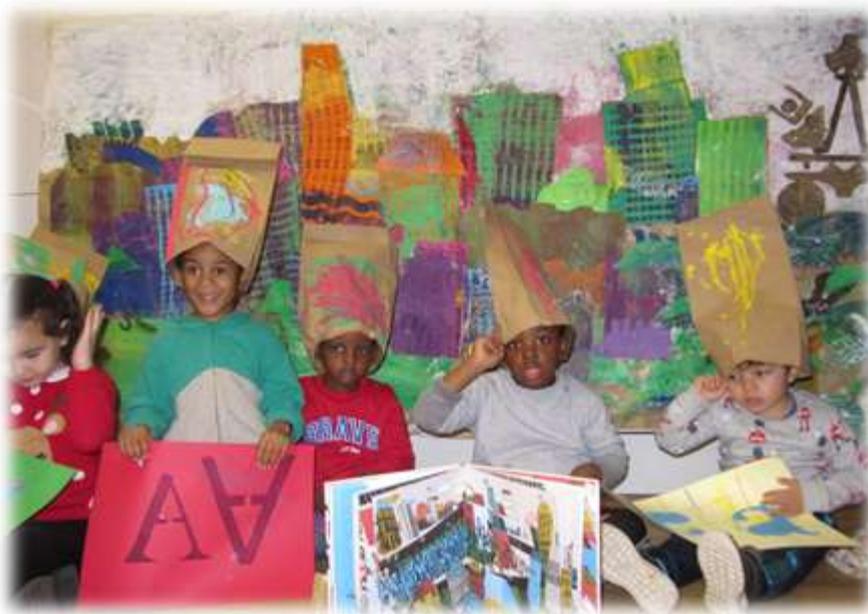


Leticia also decided she wanted to paint a family of aliens commenting "That is the Sun- it is so hot – they are the aliens and that the mummy alien."
A wonderful alien family portrait is now on display in the classroom.



Artwork inspired by Guilherme Karsten

Our Nursery children have been lucky enough to work over the last few weeks with an artist called Jasmin Bhanji. Today we had the grand unveiling of the artwork the children have been working on collaboratively with Jasmin, inspired by the illustrations of Guilherme Karsten. I think you will agree, it is rather amazing.



Congratulations to all our artists in Nursery and many thanks to Jasmin.

Avondale Park School

Year 4

At the start of this week, Year 4 took part in a Bright Sparks workshop all about electricity. They learnt about how and when it was discovered; electrons and atoms; how electricity behaves; static electricity and famous scientific key figures.

They also had the opportunity to use and observe some fun electrical equipment including a plasma ball and a Wind Hurst machine. It was lots of fun!



Attendance

The class with the highest attendance last week in KS1 **was Phoebe's Year 2** Class with **98.2%** and in KS2 it **was Joy's Y3 Class with 95.3%**.

All children should be in school every day but if your child is ill, I ask that you inform the office daily via email or by phone.

Punctuality

Thank you to parents – particularly in Y5 and 6 who have made every effort to get to school earlier – please keep it up.

A reminder again that Y5 and Y6 leave the playground to go to their classes at 8.50am so anyone not in the line to go upstairs will be marked as late. Year 1-Y4 leave the playground at 9.00am so anyone not in the line at 9.00am will be marked late. Reception and Nursery classes start their learning at 9.00am so anyone not in the building by this time will be marked late. It is your responsibility to ensure that your children are in school on time every day so please make sure that this happens.

Thank you.



Stars of the Week



Class	
Nursery	Well done Eucalyptus Class you have been super stars this week, we love your sparkly decorations they will look stunning in your homes.
Anna's Reception	SERAYAH for complimenting children after they have done something well on the carpet, trying her very best and being kind to others.
Kripali's Reception	TAREK for developing your confidence to read simple words independently - well done
Laura's Year 1	ISHANI for starting a new school and a new year group so bravely. It is lovely to see your confidence growing and the friendships you are developing!
Alexa's Y1	ALIYAH for being such a kind, helpful and considerate member of our class. You always bring joy and a smile to our classroom!
Katie's Y2	WHOLE CLASS for helping new visitors to the school and welcoming them with smiles and wonderful manners

Phoebe's Y2	BELLA ROSE for her amazing maths learning this week. She has worked so hard on statistics and even made her own pictogram!
Pippa's Y3	REASON for your creativity during your hot write, and your thoughtful answers in your reading assessment.
Joy's Y3	HANNA has worked so hard on her hot write this week. Her handwriting has improved so much since the start of the year and she is thinking so carefully about what she is writing. Great work Hanna!
Emma's Y4	WHOLE CLASS for all their hard work over the last two weeks in their first assessments of the school year. Well done for giving your all!
Daisy's Y4	SABINA has produced a well thought-out and detailed section of a narrative for her hot write. She has used clear, consistent handwriting and included examples of direct speech while also ensuring her spelling and punctuation are correct. In addition to this, she has used lots of adventurous vocabulary for description and fronted adverbials to vary the starts of her sentences. Well done Sabina!
Francesca's Y5	JOSHUA for giving all his Maths assessments 100% effort this week. We have been so impressed with your ability to recall key knowledge and apply this to your assessments. You should be so proud of yourself!
Becky's Y5	KENNETH for focusing extremely well and calmly in all his recent assessments as well as his brilliant participation in group work this week.
Russell's Y6	WHOLE CLASS for their fantastic effort during assessment week. You stayed motivated and focused throughout, well done!
Tim & Mary's Y6	WHOLE CLASS for your focus, resilience and determination to succeed during assessment week! Well done!

Congratulations to all our stars!

12 Days of Christmas Raffle

It has been the second week of the Twelve Days of Christmas Raffle and there have been a number of lucky winners! There are still tickets available to buy and next week is the week of the big prizes! – please ask at the office.



Covid-19

Cases of Covid continue to increase so I remind you, if your child has symptoms of Covid-19 they should take a PCR test and stay at home until they receive the result. If the result is negative, they may return to school when they feel better, but if it is positive, they will need to stay at home for ten days.

If you are informed that a member of your family has the new variant, the entire household will need to stay at home.

Please continue to be vigilant in using sanitiser/washing hands and wearing a mask in all the places you are required to do so. To reduce the risk of infection spreading.

And finally...

Have a good weekend.

Katy Blackler