



HOWLEY GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

News Update December 2011

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We can hardly believe it's December already. There are only a couple of weeks left this term and carols have been heard being practised in school for a few weeks, decorations are going up...one member of staff has even been spotted wearing Christmas earrings! Our Christmas tree will soon be put up (kindly donated by Green Leevs, near Sainsbury's, Blackheath - look out for a discount voucher coming home with your child) and for the first time there will also be two outdoor Christmas trees in our Forest School, decorated by Year One. It's a busy time of year so we wanted to let you know about everything that's happening.

Reception Christmas Play

The children will be performing their play on Wednesday 7th December at 2.00pm to the rest of the school and parents or grandparents who cannot come to the evening performance are invited to attend. The evening performance is on Thursday 8th December. Children need to be in school at 6.00pm to get into costume ready for a 6.30pm start.

Years One and Two Christmas Play

On Wednesday 7th December all our Early Years pupils (Yrs 1 & 2) are taking part in a Christmas Play to be performed at Carters Lane Baptist Church at 9.15am. The children do not come to school first but will be met by their teachers at the church. This gives parents time to drop siblings at school for a normal 9.00am start and then to arrive at the church. Parents are very welcome to stay for the performance - the church will be very busy but we'll fit everyone in somehow! At the end of the play we will walk the children back to school. Don't worry if your child will be at Wasps, Kindi or Football that morning - they will be walked to the church by school staff.

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Carol Service

On Thursday 9th December all our Upper Years pupils (Yrs 3, 4, 5 + 6) are taking part in a Christmas Carol Service to be held at St Peter's Church, Hiplands Road at 9.15am. The children do not come to school first but will be met by their teachers at the church. This gives parents time to drop siblings at school for a normal 9.00am start and then to arrive at the church. Parents are very welcome to stay for the Carol Services - if you've been before you'll already know that the church does get very busy. At the end of the service we will walk the children back to school. Don't worry if your child will be at Wasps, Kindi or Breakfast Club that morning - they will be walked to the church by members of school staff.

DVD

Both Christmas plays and the Carol service will be filmed so that we have a copy in school. However, Data Protection regulations mean we have to have written permission from the parents / carers of every child taking part if we are to give parents the opportunity of buying a copy. A form was recently sent to all parents asking for various photograph and recording permissions. We do hope that everyone will give their permission as this provides the opportunity for those parents who were unable to watch either performance to at least see a recording of it, as well as providing a lovely memento for years to come.

Christmas Market

On Monday 5th December we will be holding Howley Grange's very first Christmas market. We will open at 2:45pm in case you wish to buy gifts for Christmas, and will be open until approximately 4:00pm. There will be a variety of stalls and refreshments, including products designed and made by Years 3 and 6. The 2 Cool 4 School Shop will also be open selling art and craft activities for Christmas, and also lots of little stocking fillers.

Before and After School Clubs

The last sessions this term for the various clubs are as follows:

Multisports	This club finished on Monday 28th November
Netball	Friday 2nd December
Orchestra	Monday 5th December
Choir	Thursday 8th December
Your Sport Football	Before and after school clubs finish Friday 9th December
Judo	Monday 12th December
French Club	Friday 16th December

Clubs will resume in the first full of week of next term (week commencing 9th January) except choir and orchestra - starting dates for these will be sent out in due course.

Last Week of Term

We will be having our **Christmas lunch** on Tuesday 13th December. To book a meal for your child, please ensure you complete and return the form by Thursday 8th December - copies can be downloaded from our website or obtained from the school office.

The **Talent Show** takes place on the morning of Wednesday 14th December - auditions will happen in each class before then so be prepared for your child's requests for costumes, music, practise space...

Party Day is Thursday 15th December and the end of term disco will take place during the day. Rather than children bringing food to have in the classroom, the kitchen will be providing a party buffet lunch in the hall at lunchtime. This also needs to be booked in advance, using the same form as for Christmas Lunch.

The last day of term is Friday 16th December and school ends at the usual time of 3.15pm. Children come back to school on Wednesday 4th January.

Christmas always comes early in school and we are now in the middle of our festivities. Our Reception classes are preparing for their Christmas performance whilst our Year 1 and 2 children are preparing for the Christmas carol service. Upper Years are working on their carol service to be held at St Peters church. The Christmas tree is now up and the kitchen will be preparing for Christmas lunch next week. I am going to thank the kitchen staff already as I know that this is the longest lunchtime of the year and they do a marvellous job of keeping the atmosphere going. Our choir will be visiting local residential homes to sing carols and we have a talent show that all children will be able to take part in. All in all it is going to be a lovely end to what has been a fantastic term. I hope you agree that school is a super place to be at the moment and that the children are starting to see the benefits of the changes made to the curriculum. We have had some super stunning starts including trips to Liverpool and London and the quality of learning has been so impressive. We have moved forward with our target setting procedure and our individual tracking system is positively impacting on learning for the children. You will be receiving a termly report next week that will outline progress made this term. Finally, I would like to thank staff, pupils and parents for their hard work and commitment to Howley Grange this term and to wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy new year. Simon Duncan, Headteacher.