



Windermere Primary School

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Newsletter 5



Dear Parents and Carers

Christmas Post

The Christmas elves dropped by last week to put decorations up in the school. The garlands and hall displays look absolutely fantastic and are a tribute to our talented pupils.

As part of our seasonal celebrations the post box is now offering a special delivery service. No stamps are necessary, but sadly we are only able to offer an internal postal service. Envelopes should carry the child's name and class and where necessary an initial to help identification.

Christmas Fair

What a wonderful event we had last Saturday! The smell of candy floss was tantalizing and there was such a fantastic festive feel to the whole event, that I am not surprised to hear that it raised about £2000! Thank you to the PTA and their helpers for all their hard work, but also of course to all our supporters who came along and spent money. Every year the PTA fund Learning Outside the Classroom opportunities for every pupils as well as funding workshops and events in school. These are the things that make primary school memorable and learning fun.

Christmas Performances

The rehearsals for the Christmas performance of 'Lights, Camel, Action' are going well. I haven't seen a preview of the Reception Nativity, but I know from past experience that it will be a real tear-jerker.

If you have any tickets for the performances on Monday or Tuesday that you no longer need, please let us know as soon as possible as we have a waiting list for both performances.

Christmas Holidays

Don't forget we finish for the school holidays at **2pm on Wednesday 21st December** and return to school on **Monday 9th January 2017**.

Class Blogs

If you look on the school website you will find links to class blogs on each class page. The intention is that these will provide weekly updates written by the children. There are also QR codes beside each classroom door so that you can visit the blogs on your phone.



We're working
towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Snow Closures

As the wintry weather is just around the corner, this is an ideal opportunity to let you know how we will be informing parents of any unplanned closures due to bad weather. As ever, information about school closures will be available on the Hertfordshire County Council website and the local radio stations. We will also text parents using our own texting service.

This year there is also a new service provided by the county council which allows subscribers to receive up to date information via text message and email. This is in addition to our own text service and has the advantage that if HCC decide to close schools (as with the Buncefield incident) then subscribers immediately receive the notification direct from HCC. To sign up use the following link:

member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489

Hertfordshire County Council's School Closure Notification system

In the event of severe weather, a public emergency or unforeseen circumstances, it may be necessary for a school to close or partially close. In order to ensure parents and guardians are informed as quickly as possible of anything that may have an impact on a normal school day, this notification system has been put in place to enable messages from schools to be sent immediately via text message, email and a voice message if required.

Please take 5 minutes to register your details for any Hertfordshire school your child attends so that you can receive immediate information and updates.

Username [Forgot username](#)

Password [Forgot password](#)

Keep me signed in (Uncheck if on a shared computer)

Don't have an account? [Sign up](#)

Sign up here.

This link will direct you to the “Sign Up” page where you should click on the “sign up” button located at the top right hand side of the page on the grey strip and from there follow the instructions. It should take no more than 5 minutes to register and you can edit your information at any time should you change your mobile number or email address.

Each contact within the system can have 2 devices added for each communication type if you wish to – this means that in addition to adding your own mobile number and email address, you could include the mobile number and email address of a partner or a grandparent in your registration process. They too, would then receive any messages in relation to the school’s closure. Alternatively, interested parties could register themselves separately.

If you have children at more than one school you can register for those schools too in a single registration process by selecting all schools you have children at. Once signed up you will receive messages relating to the open or closed status of your child’s school.

Having said all of that, it is of course always our intention to stay open whatever the weather! However if insufficient staff are able to reach school or site conditions create a health and safety risk, then we would be forced to do so.

Plumbing

Last week we had our very own Lake Windermere! Somewhat smaller and decidedly less scenic, it was the result of an underground leak in our cold water system. As a result the cold water system has been turned off and the school is operating on mains water. Unfortunately this means that not all toilets are in use and the ‘fix’ is quite temporary. We are getting quotes to update the water system in its entirety, because after 60 years some of the current pipework is corroded and needs to be retired.

Clubs

The letter regarding clubs went out at the end of last week and there has, as usual, been an overwhelming response. Allocations will go out next week so that you can plan for the spring term. Mrs Shaporenkova, who runs our chess club, would welcome some additional helpers – particularly with beginner players. If you would like to help out please contact the school office – obviously an ability to play chess is essential!

Mobile Phone Campaign

The Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership have asked parents to sign up to a campaign about not using your mobile phone while driving. They will be sending out a *'thunderclap'* message on social media at 7pm on 9th December, so sign up at <http://thndr.me/0JyqND> to take part and raise awareness of the dangers. Who hasn't been frustrated by drivers who are endangering the lives of others by using handheld mobile phones?

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Raftery
Headteacher