



St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual Primary School

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Friday 4th November, 2016

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to welcome everyone back after half term. We do hope everyone had a peaceful and restful week whether you were at home or away.

It's been a good week at St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual School. We have enjoyed beginning our new topic of "Celebrations" and have been especially thinking about Diwali this week. We will think about Guy Fawkes night, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas over the next few weeks. We enjoyed a visit to church on Wednesday morning and want to say thank you to all the parents who helped us again walk to, and from, Church.

Please would you continue to be vigilant about naming your child's school uniform. There are a number of coats that are unnamed currently and it is proving very hard to return them to their rightful owner. We do try to look in all the obvious and not so obvious places for a name. Please hand back any items not belonging to your child, either directly to the correct child's parent or to a member of school staff and we will return the item.

It was lovely to see so many of you again at last night's Parent, Teacher and Friend's Association (PTFA) meeting. We now welcome the following committee members:

Chair: Hannah Chaudhry
Vice Chair: Jean Graham
Secretary: Jitka Aldhoun
Co-Treasurers: Tricia Cadogan-Mohamed and Kathryn Nidd-Harbin

We are looking forward to our Christmas Festive Afternoon on Friday 9th December and seeing all the great stalls that were suggested in action that day. We will send a list of stalls and those who offered to co-ordinate them next week. This will enable parents who were unable to attend to know who to approach to volunteer their help too.

Thank you to all those who have already filled in our school survey about your first half term with us. There is still time and the link is still valid. We would really appreciate it if all families (once per family) would complete the survey. You can access our online survey by following the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LXYLN93>

Well done to everyone for all the reading you have been doing with your children, especially with the school reading books they have been bringing home. Please write in their record books and then send these back into school in the folder we provided every day. Recently I saw a poster from an American teacher friend of mine which said that if a child reads 20 minutes a day, they will be exposed to 1,800,00 words per year. If they only read 5 minutes a day, they will be exposed to 282,00 words per year and if they only read 1 minute a day, they will be exposed to only 8,000 words per year. I'm not sure the statistics are necessarily exact, but the principle is. Please do spend time reading their school book and other books, both with your child and to your child every day. It really is one of the best things you can do as a parent for your child.

Don't forget the Christmas dates for your diary that I sent in my last letter:

Friday 9th December:	School Festive Afternoon 2:30pm
Tuesday 13th December:	2pm Nativity Play Dress Rehearsal (Grandparents / Younger Siblings welcome)
Wednesday 14th December:	2pm Nativity Play for parents (no children)
Monday 19th December:	Charity Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 20th December:	9:15am Christmas Service in St John's Church
Wednesday 21st December:	Term ends <u>1:30pm</u>

Some less pleasing news is that we have heard about a planning application that has been made to building a large HMO (House of Multiple Occupation) with 32 bedrooms to be built at the top of Woodlands Road. It is a new three- and four-storey building that would be erected on the car park behind Kirkfield House. This is on the land next to our playground, specifically next to our "MUGA" or ball court area. We understand that the reference on Harrow Council website is P/4444/16. We are lodging an objection, especially given the knowledge that the application makes no reference to the nearest buildings including a school. We would really appreciate all parents who feel able, to also lodge their own objections. Individual letters are much more powerful than a collective letter and the local residents are also compiling individual letters. Please see the link on the Harrow website.

<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/planningsearch/lg/GFPlanningSearch.page>

Please double check today that you have ordered your child's school meals for next week with The Pantry. Please order right up until Christmas as it takes a considerable amount of time each day checking that every child has had a meal ordered for them. Many thanks for your ongoing support in this.

Thank you for collecting V-shaped twigs over the half term holiday. We will be using these in the next couple of weeks. The EYFS staff have asked if anyone has any spare wool (any colour) that you no longer need and could donate to the school, if this could be brought into school next week. They are also hoping to use kitchen rolls to make fireworks pictures. If you finish any kitchen rolls in the next few days, please do bring in the empty inner tube to school where we will put it to good use!

Finally, please do have a look at the following link which currently contains the three videos Mme Chadier has made for you telling you about some of the things that we have already been learning in school.

<http://www.stjeromebilingual.org/stjerometv/>

Your child will be able to join in and tell you more about their learning in French.

Do contact me via the school office if you have any questions about life at St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual School.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. E. Walton
Head of School

**It is our part to seek, His to grant what we ask;
Ours to make a beginning, His to bring it to completion;
Ours to offer what we can, His to finish what we cannot.
St. Jérôme (347-420AD)**