

This will be our last Thursday Note of a very happy and successful term for the children and staff and our wider school community. It has been delightful to show prospective parents around the school which has been a buzzing hive of activity. Our youngest children have settled in well and we can't believe how quickly they are growing in confidence and skills. Key Stage One have very much enjoyed their 'Bog Baby' themed topic with lots of outings around the local community hunting for bog babies, making bog baby habitats and then designing and sewing bog babies with their parents on our family learning morning. The writing they have produced is brilliant and their bog baby teasers, which show off the best bits of their stories with their best handwriting, are beautiful and impressive. The Key Stage Two corridors and classes has been filled with the delights of the artwork and evocative writing from their chosen class text 'Fox'. This half term the children have taken part in a very exciting Evacuee Day as part of their 'Lion and the Unicorn' topic which looks at the impact of World War 2 on children and contrasts life in the city with life in the country. For much of the latter part of this term the school has been filled with the sound of singing as all the classes have been preparing our Christmas Performances ready for next week. We hope you enjoy the fruits of all the hard work from the children and staff.

Next Thursday will be our last day and we will be performing for our Mayor and invited community guests in the morning and in the afternoon we will have our school parties. Children will be able to wear a Christmas jumper or t-shirt for their party. This year we will not be having food as the children will just have had their dinner but there will be some party treats provided by school. Children can be collected from 2pm as we will be finishing early for Christmas. May I take this opportunity to thank the governors and staff for their hard work on behalf of the children and to thank you as parents/carers/guardians for all your support for your children and the school community. **Happy Christmas and New Year and see you all on Monday 8th January 2018!**

Vallis School Childcare provision: We are delighted to be able to offer a daily Before School club which runs from 7.45am until the start of school and daily After School Provision (Childs Play Clubs UK) from 3-6pm. For working parents who would like to use the new Tax-Free Childcare scheme to help with childcare costs you will be pleased to hear that our Before School Club has now been registered for this scheme and our After School Provision (Childs Play Clubs UK) is currently undergoing registration. Please come to the office for further information.

Buying devices at Christmas time: If you are thinking of buying technology for your children at Christmas then you might like to read the advice from the UK Safer internet Centre:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology>

VSA NEWS

Cake Sales: Mars Class made £35.30 at their cake sale. Well done Mars class ☺ It is the turn of Sun Class tomorrow, please buy or bake some cakes to sell. Thank you.

Giving Machine: If you're buying Christmas presents online don't forget you can raise money at no extra cost at The Giving Machine - www.thegivingmachine.co.uk

Sign up, choose Vallis First School as your cause and shop via the website or apps next time you make a purchase.

Christmas plays: Please come to the school office to order your tickets. In the first instance, 2 tickets per family are allocated for you to attend one performance by your child. If spare tickets are available, you can apply on the date of the performance. Young siblings can come along on the understanding that they sit in your lap. There will be a charitable retiring collection after each performance.

Parent Governor Vacancy: This vacancy has arisen due to the stepping down of Lindsay Downes who has faithfully served our school both as a parent and governor. We are very grateful for all Lindsay has been able to offer to support our school. If you are interested in being nominated for this post please make an appointment with Mrs Pauley to find out more about our Governing Body roles and responsibilities.

Dates for your Diary 2017

Friday 14th December - Sun Class Cake Sale

18/19/20th December - Christmas performances

Thursday 21st December - Class parties and school closes from 2pm

Monday 8th January 2018 - Back to school

Clubs: There are places left in Multi-Sports Club. If you would like your child to attend, please come to the School Office to book a place.