



Newsletter

11th December 2014, Autumn Term No. 9

www.martinswood.herts.sch.uk

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our annual Children's Christmas Fair takes place on Tuesday 16th December from 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

This is where children in Y5 and Y6 run stalls to raise funds for the Pupil Council. The children will vote on how they wish to spend the money to improve the school.

ALL PUPILS AND PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

If you have a child in EYFS or KS1 you may collect them from their classrooms from 2.30pm if you intend taking them to the Children's Fair. If you are not taking them to the fair school will end at normal time for them.

Children in Y3 and Y4 may bring some money to school on Tuesday to spend at the fair. Those who have brought money will be allowed to go to the fair at 2.30pm. They will return to their classroom for dismissal at the end of the day but there is nothing to stop them going back to the fair after school.

You may prefer to visit the fair after 3.30pm when you collect your children from their classrooms.

Y5 and Y6 have lots of great ideas and are busy planning and preparing their activities. There will be cake and sweet stalls, games, raffles and tombolas, quizzes, games and much, much more.

END OF TERM

Just a reminder that school closes at noon on Friday 19th December for the Christmas holiday. Please arrange for your child to be collected promptly. Children do get very anxious if they think you have forgotten.

SAY HELLO, WAVE GOODBYE

After Christmas two of our classes are being "rebranded" because they have a change of teacher. Miss Crick is leaving us to take up a position nearer to where she lives so 2C will become 2F because their new teacher will be Miss Feeney. She will be joining 2C on 15th and 16th December to give the children the opportunity to get to know her a little before the break.

Mrs Chamberlain is relocating to Dorset and her class, 3C, will become 3G after Christmas. Mr Griffith, who will be teaching the class for the rest of the school year will be in school today and tomorrow. Those parents attending the Y3 Carol Service tomorrow may get the opportunity to meet him briefly at the church.

We would like to wish Miss Crick and Mrs Chamberlain the very best of luck and good health for the future whilst offering our sincerest gratitude for the time, energy and commitment they have given to the children of Martins Wood over the last few years.

AROUND THE WORLD

– a request from Y1 teachers

Next term the Y1 topic is "Around the World" and the Y1 teachers have asked for some help from parents. They would love to hear from anyone who has experience of living in a different part of the world who would be willing to come in and give a brief talk to the children.

Maybe you were born and raised in another country, or maybe you have lived away from the UK. Either way if you are happy to come in and tell the children about the culture and traditions, or perhaps the food and famous sights, they would love to hear from you.

Please don't worry if your child is not in Y1. Simply let the office know and one of the Y1 team will get in touch with you.

LSA POSITION

We have been granted some additional funding to help us meet the needs of one of our pupils. We are anxious to get someone appointed as soon as we possibly can and we are opening this position up to parents before advertising more widely in the hope that it might help us to find the right person more quickly. It is a busy time of year but if you would like to know more please contact either Mr Evans or Mrs Powell to find out a little more.

CHARITY COLLECTIONS

Parents who have attended the Christmas plays and Carol Services will know that the Pupil Council are collecting to help two charities this year. The money raised at our collections will be split equally between Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Ebola Crisis Appeal.

We still have a number of events to come but I am delighted to tell you that we have already raised over £500. Thank you everyone for giving so generously.

NAME _____ CLASS _____

MARTINS WOOD GETS “APP-y”

We are really thrilled that so many of you have already downloaded the App and are telling us how much you like it. Some of you may even be reading this newsletter on your phone as it will be the first one to become widely available in this way as well as the usual routes.

One thing that many haven't realised is that you can ask for push notifications that are relevant to you.

If you go to your settings page and scroll down to “Notification Groups” you can tick each group that you would like to receive reminders and notifications about.

When you have ticked those that apply don't forget to save and update your details.

If you haven't yet downloaded the App do it now and find out what you've been missing. Simply follow the links from our website.

CATS TRIP

The trip to see Cats at the London Palladium on Monday will leave school at 4.45pm prompt. Please ensure you are here in good time.

PRE-SCHOOL VACANCY

We are now advertising for the first member of staff to work in our new pre-school.

We are looking for a Pre-School Leader and want them to join us at least a month before the children start coming after Easter. This will give them plenty of time to set up policies, procedures and routines for Saplings Pre-School. They will be able to help us purchase furniture and resources, appoint the rest of the staff and begin to plan the first few weeks of activities in our lovely purpose built unit. This is a really superb opportunity to set up a flagship facility and have a real impact on how it will shape up over the coming years.

The vacancy is advertised in full detail on the Teach In Herts website and will feature in The Comet next week. A job description and application form can be downloaded from the site or you may prefer to ask for paper copies from the school office if you are interested.

The application deadline is 9th January and interviews are on 15th January. If you are interested and want to have a look around the building and discuss the position in more detail please make an appointment through the school office.

A WONDERFUL WINTER WONDERLAND

Congratulations to the Friends of Martins Wood for organising a fabulous evening. There are many benefits to having a Friends Association at a time when many schools are struggling more and more to find willing and dedicated volunteers who give up their own time to organise social and fund-raising events for the school.

The fund-raising is only part of the picture, the social side is equally important, but thanks to this event a figure in excess of £2000 has been raised which will be put towards the further development of the school playgrounds. There are just a few more receipts and bills to process and then we should be able to tell you the grand total.

Thanks to the efforts of the Friends we are receiving a delivery of equipment which will be installed next week. The over-sized story-telling chairs have been a real hit with the children and staff. Next week each chair will have complimentary benches installed creating a focal point in each playground for story-telling and play which can stay in use all year round rather than be so weather dependent.

I would like to express my deepest thanks and gratitude for all those volunteers who so regularly turn up and make the magic happen.

The Friends always love to hear from new volunteers and there will be the perfect opportunity for you to come along and do this at their AGM on 12th January.

THE GOLD BOOK

With the introduction of our new App we are changing the sequence in which we publish the newsletter to parents. Until now the complete newsletter has been published first and then the pupil names are deleted before it goes to our website.

One of the reasons for introducing the App was to ensure that we are using all possible ways of communicating with you. The App places all the communication from school in your handbag or pocket and there will still be the usual methods of email and paper copies, so there really isn't much chance of you not getting a copy of the newsletter in one way or another.

To ensure you always have the most recent newsletter it will in future go through the electronic channels first. That means that the names of children with Gold Book entries, or appearing in the newsletter for any other reason, will be added after the newsletter has been published to the App and the website.

You can expect this newsletter, featuring the names entered in the Gold Book, early next week sent by Parent Mail and pupil post.

AND FINALLY...

*Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas
And a
Happy New Year
From all the staff at
Martins Wood*

NAME _____ CLASS _____
