

FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

Just a few days left and we've finished the first term of the school year ready for all the fun, excitement and excess of the Christmas holiday! We have had many visitors this term who have all been extremely complimentary about the school including the CEO and the Chair of Directors of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust and several local headteachers. Our number on roll has been steadily rising with hardly a week passing without someone new joining the school. Finally at the end of this week, our 2015 results will officially be published showing that for the second year running, we are above both local and national averages. This makes us the best performing KS2 school in the Trust and one of the best performing in Portsmouth. This is down to the astonishing hard work and commitment of the staff here, the behaviour and attitude of the children and your support as parents and carers. My thanks to you all together with my wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Iain C. Gilmore

SCHOOL DINNER ORDERING AND PAYING – GOING ONLINE from JANUARY 5th

The website for ordering and paying for school dinners is now online. The easiest way to get to it is via our school website where there is a link on the top right of the screen. Click on the words "online school meals" on the dark blue band at the top and you'll go straight there. The actual address is <http://www.feedinghungryminds.co.uk/edu/isambard-brunel-junior-school/> which is not the easiest of ones to remember hence the link on the website!

Once there, click on the "register, pre-order or pay" link which is the picture of the chicken in the middle of the page and you'll go to the log in page. If it's your first time then click on "new user" and there's a form to fill in – the school name is in a drop down menu. When you've done that, you'll get an email saying you've registered and then, annoyingly, you have to wait for an activation email which can take up to two days to arrive...and as mine hasn't arrived yet, I can't tell you what to do next but you will have to enter card details before you can start ordering. There is a users' guide on the Cypad website, on our website and attached to this newsletter.



Feeding Hungry Minds

We do need **all** children registered including Free School Meal children please. I expect it will take a few days to iron out any niggles but I'm confident that this new system will make the start of the day so much easier for everyone.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Following feedback from our governors, we are now putting copies of letters that go home on our website. Scroll down to the "quick links" section on the right and there's a "letters home" menu option. We want our website to be an important way of communicating with you as parents – we all know that just because we give children letters to take home (and we do!) they don't necessarily get home. In fact recent scientific research has proven that the rings around Saturn are made up of all the letters that are mislaid between school and home...so please keep an eye on the website checking in perhaps at least once a week? Thank you!



CAROL CONCERT AND CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Our carol concert is next **Wednesday 16th December at 2pm at St. Mary's Church**. The children will be sitting in year groups in a big arc with Year 3 nearest the altar, Year 6 nearest the way in and the other two year groups in the middle. Parents and visitors are asked to sit opposite and I'm stuck in the middle with the piano. The children are singing traditional carols with a modern twist and there are several opportunities for community singing...



Several parents have asked about a Christmas jumper day and it makes sense to combine this with our Carol Service. So next Wednesday children may forgo their school jumper for a Christmas jumper in return for a donation of at least £1 that will go to the church: children can bring the money into school or you can donate it at the end of the service.



If for religious reasons you do not want your child to take part, please write to the school to let us know. You will need to collect your child at 12pm as the school will be closed for the afternoon. Thank you.

SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD – PARENT MEMBER

From January, the school is replacing its governing body with an Advisory Board who will report to a Regional Governing Body that represents all three TSAT schools in Portsmouth. We are looking for a parent to join this board to give their point of view about how the school is doing – what is going well and what could be improved. The commitment is around one meeting a term and, if possible, a visit to school as well. No special skills are needed apart from being a parent! Please let me know via the office if you are interested so we can have a chat about the role. Thank you!



PTA EVENTS

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair last week. The event raised over £350 which is a fantastic amount in such austere times.

The last **Film Night** is for **Years 3 & 4** on **Thursday 10th December** (The Grinch) and there is a letter on the website for tickets.

My thanks to the small but perfectly formed band of volunteers who run the PTA – please let us know if you would like to join them in organising their various events across the school year.



DIARY DATES

Thursday 10th December

Wednesday 16th December

Friday 18th December

Tuesday 5th January

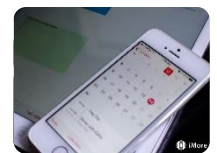
Year 3 & 4 Film Night

Carol Concert 2pm @ St. Mary's Church

Class Christmas Parties (afternoon)

Last day of term

School reopens for Spring Term



TERM DATES

Spring term

Summer term

Tues 5 January to Thurs 24 March

Mon 11 April to Wed 20 July

Half term: Mon 15th to Fri 19th February

Half term: Mon 30th May to Fri 3 Jun

May Day: Mon 2 May

INSET days next year are 4 January, 22 February and 6 June