

### FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new year. The good news is that we have got through what is supposed to be the most depressing day of the year without incident (Monday 18 January as you ask) and that half term is only a few weeks away. Hopefully by then the weather will have sorted itself out and we won't all be freezing. There are lots of things happening this term including a residential visit, a Guildhall concert and some changes to the start of the day.

Please read this newsletter carefully (it's only ever two sides long!), ask your child if they have any letters and then double check on the "letters" page of the website to make sure they are right. Believe it or not, one parent told the office they had no idea about the new dinner system despite it being on three newsletters, announced in assemblies and the subject of many, many texts....we do try to let you know what's going on – I promise!

*Iain C. Gilmore*

### STAFF NEWS

We have said goodbye to Miss Brown who has left us to become a teaching assistant at a local infant school. We wish her the very best of luck with this slight change in direction!

### ONLINE SCHOOL DINNERS

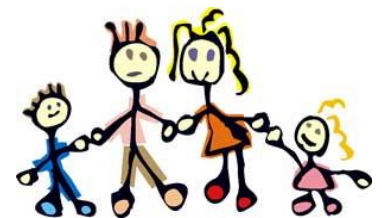
The online dinner system appears to be working well and the days of long queues in the lower hall are now behind us! My thanks to everyone who has registered and particularly to the office team for all their behind-the-scenes work. If you still haven't registered and are a little internet-phobic, please come in and speak to Mrs Smith who will be happy to sit down with you and take you through the process.



Feeding Hungry Minds

### PARENTS' SURVEY

A reminder that our parents' survey is due back by **Monday 25 January** if you wish to be entered into the raffle to a win one of four bottles of wine. After that date, we will still look at the survey but you will not be eligible for a prize. Thank you for helping us with this important piece of Ofsted preparation.



### ROAD SAFETY IN THE MORNING

I know that there are still concerns about the start of the day particularly on the corner of Drayton and Wymering Roads and I have an idea and some news that should help.

First of all, I would like to trial a **new system for the start of the day** to see if it helps ease congestion. For the last two weeks of this half term, we will only open the West playground in the morning but we will open all three gates – the side gate on Wymering Road, the gate on the corner of Drayton and Wymering Roads but also the gate on the corner of Drayton and Portchester Road.



Children who were coming in via the MUGA will have to walk a few extra steps to the side gate on the West playground. I hope this will mean more room for children to wait and so less crowding on the busy corner. We will try from **Monday 1 February** to **Friday 12 February** so please let me know what you think.

The news is that the council's **proposal for a new one way system outside school**. The plan is to make Wymering Road and Portchester Road one way streets as shown on the diagram. The idea is that the roads are safer for children at both schools, the "school keep clear" markings are not used to let traffic pass and life is a little more pleasant for the residents.

There are full details on the yellow notices attached to lamp posts and we've uploaded a copy of the notice to our website – please do respond to make your views known.



### CHILDREN'S NAMES ON THE WEBSITE

We want to use the website to celebrate success and achievement in school. This means, for examples, sharing names of our school councillors and the weekly Stars of the Week. We will never use their photographs – just their class, first name and surname. If you would rather we did not put your child's name and class on the site, please write to me as soon as possible. Thank you.



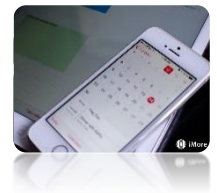
### PTA VALENTINES' DISCO

Our fabulous PTA is organising a Valentine's Disco this half term. There will be two separate times for the upper and lower school but both will take place on the same night: Wednesday 10 February. Please look out for letters coming home with more details.



### DIARY DATES

Wednesday 10 February	PTA Valentine's Disco
Thursday 11 February	Year 4 ukelele concert @ 2pm
Friday 12 February	Year 4 Blue Reef Aquarium visit
Monday 15 February	Half term
Monday 22 February	INSET day
Tuesday 23 February	School reopens
Monday 7 March – Wednesday 9 March	Year 5 Residential @ Marchant's Hill
Monday 14 March	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 15 March	Parents' Evening
Monday 21 March	SongScape @ Guildhall 6:30pm
<b>Friday 25 March</b>	<b>School closed for Easter Holiday</b>
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>School reopens for Summer Term</b>



### TERM DATES

Spring term	Half term: Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> February
Summer term	Mon 11 April to Wed 20 July
	Half term: Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> May to Fri 3 Jun
	May Day: Mon 2 May

INSET days this year are 22 February and 6 June