

18.12.17

# Ursula Taylor School

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*End of Autumn Term*  
*2017*

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## Fundraising

Thank you to our PTFA for all their hard work this term, there have been a number of events organised and run for our children and families to enjoy which bring some much needed funds into school. Many thanks to Charlie Tomkins for his wonderful fireworks display, this is a lovely event which sees many people from our community get together to celebrate Bonfire Night and also support our children and school. The wreath making night was also a huge success, with many people enjoying the challenge of making their own beautiful decorations. The front doors of Clapham and beyond have a truly 'hand made, one off' style!

Our Christmas Fair was once again very successful, thank you to all PTFA members and staff for supporting this and raising in the region of £1500. Father Christmas was able to take time out of his busy schedule to pop in and the raffle saw some super prizes and worthy winners.

## WE NEED YOU!

Our PTFA do a great job for our school, providing fun events for our children and families to enjoy and really commit themselves to raising as much money as possible to support our very challenging budget. Without the PTFA we would not be able to afford to run our pool, buy new library and reading books and also offer subsidised events such as the Pantomime. All the PTFA members are hard working parents, who also have paid jobs to do. It is becoming increasingly difficult to run events as very few new helpers have come forward to support them. Please do get involved an offer any help that you can, it would be a real shame to have to cancel events and reduce the number of activities due to lack of parental support. Any and all help would be gratefully received. To get involved please speak to: Anna Glasswell, Paula Hurley (Y1 TA), Jo Reynolds, Amy Akdeniz, or Nikki Hageman. You can also telephone the school office (01234 359128) or email [office@ursulataylor.bedssch.co.uk](mailto:office@ursulataylor.bedssch.co.uk) and your message can be forwarded to the PTFA.

## Woodlands Manor – Thank you

Our sincere thanks to the team at Woodlands Manor for their kind donation towards school funds from the recent Bonfire Night celebrations. Thanks to the team for thinking of us to support through their fundraising, the money donated will go towards updating our ICT across the school.



## School closure – Snow Day

We recently had to close for a day due to adverse weather conditions, which we appreciate is challenging for some families, especially those parents who work. We would like to outline our reasons for closure so all parents are aware of the decision making process and our Duty of Care regarding children, staff, parents and visitors.



We take closing the school very seriously and the decision is not made lightly. This is evident by the fact that you have to go back to February 2009 to find the last time the school closed for any reason, we even managed to stay open during a serious underground electrical fire which resulted in no electrics, no school kitchen for cooking 200+ school dinners, all whilst safeguarding all our children and staff and conducting an Ofsted inspection.

The decision to close last Monday was taken for a number of reasons. Whilst we appreciate that most children live in Clapham and could have walked, most staff do not and we would be failing to safeguard children with inadequate numbers of teachers to manage 350 children. Whilst many Teaching Assistants live in Clapham and would probably have made it into school, we cannot legally have Teaching Assistants in charge of groups of 30+ children without a teacher close by to support where necessary. It is also worth considering that a large number of Teaching Assistants who work in a 1:1 capacity and therefore are responsible for named SEN children and cannot lead a class or group.



Site Safety must be taken into consideration, both in terms of walking and also driving. As the snow fall was over the weekend, staff were not working or available to be clearing the school to a level which would have allowed safe usage. Even on Tuesday when we reopened, the grounds were very slippery, even with Mr Ruff's best efforts to clear and salt the paths and driveway.

When the decision was made to close, it followed consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, a large group of local Headteachers, consultation with the Borough Council and also all staff to see which teachers would be worst affected by the snow.

We hope this explanation makes our decision clear and even if you do not agree with closure that you can see that it was a necessary step to take to ensure the safety of all of our children, staff and parents.



### SCHOOL DINNERS

School dinners for the Spring Term: (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 meals are free through the Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative)

Meal costs for Year 3, 4 and 5. Meals are £2.15 a day.

1<sup>st</sup> half term = 28 days @ £2.15 = £60.20

Whole Term = 57 days @ £2.15 = £122.55

Fridays 1<sup>st</sup> h/t = 6 @ £2.15 = £12.90 Fridays whole term = 11 @ £2.15 = £23.65

Meals must be paid for in advance by cash or cheque (to Caterlink please)



## THANKYOU!

Our thanks to Tony Homer and Miss Mayston for sourcing our lovely outdoor Christmas Tree which we have all been enjoying very much.

### School Uniform

Thank you to all parents who have been following the uniform policy, the children are looking smart and tidy. Please remember that shoes must be black (Boots for winter are fine, but they need to be plain black and not decorated with sequins, sparkles etc) Hairbands must be small, neat and plain coloured, please do not send your child in with sparkly hair bands, Jojo bows etc. – unless it is Mufti day.

Children DO need wellies at school, this has been our practice for some time now. We want the children to be on the field at all times throughout the year, therefore they will need suitable footwear. Using the field allows children across the school to play together and also means lunchtime staff have an easier job of managing a large number of children. Wellies need to be named



### Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January – Break up for Christmas

January 2<sup>nd</sup> – TRAINING DAY (No children)

January 3<sup>rd</sup> – children return to school.

w/b 12.2.18 – 16.2.18 HALF TERM

20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> / 22<sup>nd</sup> March Parent Consultations.

29<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Holidays Start

7<sup>th</sup> May and 28<sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday.

8<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – Sports Day

6<sup>th</sup> July Proms

**Wishing you all a very Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

