



STRAND NEWS

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NEWSLETTER –11 Autumn Term 2009

4th December 2009

Handy Hero Update – the GSK handwashing project

Children are nearing the end of their series of challenges to achieve Handy Hero Status. The children are using the wash spots around the school to remind them to wash their hands, they sing their song and can explain the reasons for washing hands. They are now ready to graduate and Mrs Curtis will be visiting each class to acknowledge their hard work this term.

Maths Meetings

We hope that the EY and KS1 Maths meetings were helpful to parents and carers this week. We hope that you are clearer about the methods and strategies that are used to help children really understand and enjoy Maths. If you weren't able to attend the meeting or you simply have more questions remember you can come and talk to staff.

Request for toys for Play Therapy – Thank you so much

The response to our request for toys has been overwhelming! Our play therapy students have been sorting out your donations and we now have a complete set of Play Therapy resources for the school to keep. Any surplus donations have been shared in the Early Years classrooms or donated to the Christmas Fair.

Toilet Update

Our fantastic underfloor heating system has been fitted. Work is now beginning on the flooring and other fittings. We look forward to a completion date in the first half of next term.

Friends of Strand

Christmas Fair

Many thanks for all the generous donations you have made towards the Fair. Please come and join us for some festive fun tomorrow, Saturday, between 11 am and 3 pm. Among the many attractions are Santa's Grotto, face painting, mulled wine and delicious Thai curries.

If you have any raffle tickets left, sold or unsold, please bring them along to the raffle stall tomorrow. The winning tickets for the long list of amazing prizes will be drawn in the Infant Hall at around 2.15 pm. Good luck!

Christmas Trees

Don't forget to collect your Christmas tree if you ordered one for collection at the Fair. As a reminder, all other ordered trees will be delivered to you, or should be collected from the entrance to the Nursery on Saturday 12 December between 10 am and 12 noon – whichever option you specified on your order form.

There will also be a few trees to buy and take away at the Fair – but not many, so be quick! All trees are top quality Nordman non-drop fir trees.

Friends meeting

The next meeting is on Tuesday, 8 December at 25 Oxford Gardens at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

News from the Juniors

We thought you might like to see the outcomes of our October Parent/Carer survey, the responses to which are set out in the table below:

	% Agree or Strongly agree	1	2	3	4	5
Communication systems are effective (particularly Parentmail)	89	47	40	9	2	0
Transition to the new year group/ Juniors has been successful	96	68	26	4	0	0
My child is happy at school	96	68	26	4	0	0
My child is doing well	97	67	28	2	1	0
I am informed about my child's progress	99	69	28	1	0	0
I am informed about how my child needs to improve	100	75	23	0	0	0

We were delighted that so many of our families are pleased with the Juniors and, in particular, feel well informed about their children's progress and areas for improvement. We had some great comments in the "What's going well" section of our questionnaire with lots of parents mentioning the 'creative/topic' approach to learning which their children enjoyed greatly and 'enthusiastic, friendly and helpful staff' being the most popular response. In terms of what we need to do better, there were lots of great suggestions, many of which are already priorities for us, such as further enhancing the playground to create more quiet spaced and working with the school meals service and families to ensure our children make healthy choices at lunch time.

If you have not yet had a chance to visit the Juniors, we have a dedicated Open Day coming up on 28th January and would love to see you there so watch out for your individual invitation at the beginning of the new term.

Infant School Questionnaires

We have nearly finished analysing our parent/carers questionnaires (from November) and look forward to sharing the results with you in next week's Newsletter.

Forthcoming Date Reminders

Friday 11 th Dec	11.00 Nursery AM Christmas Performance in Nursery – no ticket needed 3.00 Nursery PM Christmas Performance in Nursery – no ticket needed
Mon 14 th Dec	2.00 KS1 Christmas Concert (Siblings invited) – tickets needed for adults
Tues 15 th Dec	9.30 KS1 Christmas Concert (No siblings) – tickets needed. 2.00 Rec Christmas Concert (Siblings invited) – tickets needed.
Weds 16 th Dec	9.30 Rec Christmas Concert (No siblings) – tickets needed. 2.00 KS1 Christmas Concert (No siblings) – tickets needed. CHRISTMAS LUNCH – deadline for orders is Friday, 11 December Nursery AM and PM Christmas Parties
Thurs 17 th Dec	AM Reception Christmas Parties PM Flying Pizza Christmas Show
Fri 18 th Dec	AM Y1 and Y2 Christmas Parties TERM FINISHES

We look forward to welcoming Lewis Allen, Pastor, Gunnersbury Baptist Church and Father Michael Riley, St Pauls Church, Chiswick to leading some special Christmas Assemblies next week.

Winston's Wish – Our Christmas Charity

Following the success of last year's fundraising we have decided once again to support the Winston's Wish Charity. This special charity raises money for children and their families who have suffered bereavement. On Tuesday we will have set up a display of silver stars – we are asking parents/carers and children to make a donation of a £1 to write their own message (on a star) to someone they love over Christmas and hang this on our display.

***** KS1 STAR AWARDS 4.12.09*****

Yellow: Alexandre, Bobby, Jasmine **Turquoise:** Holly, Leo, Jibril
Blue: Laila, Connor, Amin **Lime:** Mateo, Iona, Courtney
Purple: Livvy, Ramla, Harvey **Pink:** Thomas, Jemimah, Daniel

***** KS1 STAR AWARDS 26.12.09*****

Yellow: Selene, Oliver, India **Turquoise:** Lamar
Blue: Joshua, Abdulrahman **Lime:** Bradley, Iona, Sharvari
Purple: Whole Class were Stars! **Pink:** Isha, Martha, Tyler

Remember 8.56 am is LATE for school!