



# King Athelstan Primary School Newsletter 7 Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012



## Happy Christmas to Everyone in our School Community

As the days are getting colder and the children are getting more excited, we are busy getting ready for the Christmas celebrations. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families good health and best wishes during this festive time. We look forward to working with you to build on our successes in 2013!

### Autumn Term Dates:

Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 going to Rose Theatre 11.00am
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS1 (9.45am) and EYFS (1.45pm) Production
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	EYFS (9.45am) and KS1 (1.45pm) Production
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Parties
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	School Christmas Lunch End of term 2.30pm

**Please note:** There will be no swimming during the last week of term and Extra Curricular clubs finish this week. New club information for the Spring term will be going out on Friday.

### Spring Term Dates:

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Beginning of Term
<b>PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO INSET DAY.</b>	
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Maths Passport Briefing - 6.00pm
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	RWI Briefing - 6.00pm

### Rotary Jubilee Commemorative Tree

We were delighted to be one of the six schools in Kingston who were selected to have a rowan tree planted on their school grounds to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December the tree was planted by the Mayor, Councillor Mary Heathcote. Members of the Eco club joined Miss Newton, members of the Rotary club and the Mayor for the planting. The children will be supporting Mr Vessey caring for the tree as it matures and becomes fully grown. The tree can be seen in the middle of the grassy area beside the bike shed. It truly is a wonderful addition to the school grounds. This tree is said to have magical properties in mythology. Some people believe it protects against evil and prevents travellers from getting lost. The wood is said to be used for magicians' staves.

### Martin Neafcey

Sadly, on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November Mrs Neafcey's husband, Martin, passed away having been very sick since May. We know you will join us in sending Mrs Neafcey our condolences during this terribly difficult time. School staff are making a collection in his memory to be given to Cancer Research, Marie Curie and Princess Alice Hospice charities. Any families wishing to show their support are more than welcome to contribute. The collection is being held at the school office.

### School Uniform Orders



With immediate effect - School uniform can only be purchased from the school office on **Thursday afternoons between 2.30pm - 3.00pm**. Any orders placed during the week will be available for collection at this time.

### Remember to Order your Christmas Lunch

The School Christmas Lunch is on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December. Book now! Forms are available from the school office.

**Please note: So that there are not two roast dinners in the last week, on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> we will be serving fish fingers & chips, with vegetable pasta bake as a vegetarian option.**



### Christmas Fair

Thank you to all the parents and carers who worked so hard to organise another successful Christmas Fair. It was great to see the community come together to celebrate Christmas whilst raising money to support the school. The event raised in excess of £1500 (exact total to be confirmed in the New Year).



### Sports update:

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November children from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in a Quicksticks Hockey Tournament at Surbiton Hockey Club. This is a state of the art, all weather facility. The children were put into mixed teams so that they interacted with other children from different schools in the borough. Once again the children played extremely well. We receive outside funding for the hockey sessions during the curriculum time, as well as additional funding for the extra curricular clubs, this experience clearly impacted on their skills, which were noted during the competition.



### Preparing the Younger Children to Compete:



We think it is crucial that children are given the opportunity to compete in competitive sports from a young age. It develops their love and engagement in sport, helping them to make healthy choices as they grow and develop. Fundamental skills of coordination, movement, body awareness, spatial awareness and communication are all developed from an early age. Each Friday afternoon Mr Mc Laughlin and Mrs Coltman team up both Monet and Picasso classes to work on multi-skills activities. The children have great fun throwing, jumping, running, doing target practice, balancing and playing coordination games. Improving these skills will mean that these children will be able to take part in individual and team games more confidently as they mature. We also offer the children in Years 1, 2 and 3 the chance to attend Teddy Tennis. The sessions combine music, pictures and teddy bear stories into a totally interactive learning adventure that the children really enjoy. The children taking part in this activity improve their coordination and concentration and clearly enjoy getting active. Look out for new after school courses in January!



### Great Ambassadors Singing their Hearts Out!

We are so proud of our choir and their community work this term. They have been busy learning a selection of festive songs and have been sharing them with young and old across Kingston. On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Sally Paul, our specialist music teacher, took the choir to The Rose theatre to sing to the 'Sing and Sign' group. The audience was an impressive 180 - a record for that group! Yesterday the choir visited the Bradbury Centre to sing for the older members of our community. We are delighted to be able to share some of the Christmas joy that carols can bring with such a wide cross section of Kingston. What a great experience for our choir. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Paul for organising these events.



### Lateness

We know as we stagger towards the end of term and the mornings are colder it is harder to get the children up and ready for school on time. It is **essential** that everyone arrives at 8.45am. Children arriving late are missing important RWI learning and falling behind their peers. We have asked our Education Welfare Officer (EWO), Fran Dixon, to attend late duties and speak to families as they arrive. Persistent lateness and/or absence trigger formal meetings with Ms Newton and Fran Dixon. This can result in Attendance Contracts, further meetings at the Guildhall and even prosecution. Please support us by getting your children to school on time - together we can make a difference!

### Important - Morning Readers

Every morning children are gathering in the front lobby waiting for their reading session. This is causing disturbance in the school office. We are concerned that children are arriving significantly earlier than they are expected for their reading sessions which start at 8.15am. The school cannot be responsible for children at this time - our expectation is that they go to Breakfast Club if they have to arrive earlier than 8.15am. Breakfast Club information is available from the school office.

### Important - Lobby Arrangements

Please note that the school lobby cannot be used as a waiting area for parents/carers. It is for use by visitors and in order to speak to the school office only. We understand that it is cold outside, however we are unable to accommodate parents/carers in this area before, during and after the school day. Of course parents/carers with an appointment to see a member of the senior team may wait here.

Thank you for your support.

### Reminder

Free Adult and Family Learning sessions - **First Session: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

If you are interested please pop into the school office and register your name.