



Drapers' Pyrgo  
Priory School



## Christmas Newsletter for Parents, Friends and Governors

December 2016

As we come to the end of our Autumn Term, we would like to wish you a very peaceful and happy Christmas and thank you for the continued support you give to the school. Having worked hard all term, the children will be ready for a break and the opportunity to recharge their batteries (whilst wearing yours out no doubt!). We've had a busy and productive term with lots to tell you about and a few reminders to give too.

### FODS

Now we have joined the Drapers' MAT the Friends of Drapers' (FODS) have been supporting our school in ensuring events have been held throughout the term to support your children and raise funds for charitable causes and school funds.

The Christmas Bazaar will be held this Thursday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 at the Drapers' Academy. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible. They are also going to support us on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 for our outdoor carol service and provide mince pies and hot chocolate. Other events held this term by the FODS have been The Macmillan coffee morning which was a terrific opportunity for all parents to get together for a chat and learn more about the MAT

The FODs are always looking for new members so if you feel you would like to get involved please contact the school and we will pass on your details.

### Christmas Performances

Our Christmas performances are always very special events and hopefully this year will be no exception. As you know the children have had very little time to rehearse this year owing to the unavoidable closure of the school last week due to a problem with the power supply to the school.

Nevertheless they are very excited about performing for you and their enthusiasm and enjoyment is infectious, the school is buzzing with Christmas songs, carols, dramas and happiness. Please help them to learn their lines and words to the songs. I am sure our talented children will give of their best, as will staff who work so hard to enable your children to perform so successfully.

Please be aware if the performance ends before the end of the school day children will return to class for dismissal at the usual time.

We will be organising a collection on the performance days to raise money for St Francis' Hospice, the choir will be visiting the hospice on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

We had to cancel the Dick Whittington Pantomime due to the school closure; however you will be glad to hear we have managed to re book for Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Any parent who has not made a donation, there is still time.

Mr Matthews will also be performing in his annual Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk on 6<sup>th</sup> January, hopefully this will be held at Drapers' Academy and more details will follow.

School Contact details: Telephone: 01708 342165

[www.pyrgopriory.co.uk](http://www.pyrgopriory.co.uk)/Blogspot - [pyrgo-priory.blogspot.co.uk](http://pyrgo-priory.blogspot.co.uk)/Facebook join our group/Twitter@pyrgo\_priory



### **School Choir**

The school choir sang at Romford mall on Tuesday morning and were joined by members of the Drapers' choir. They are also due to perform at the FODS Christmas bazaar from 4:15 and will also perform at St Francis' Hospice, the Priory and Queens Hospital in December. Many thanks to Mrs Maynard for leading the choir and organising these events, together with Mr Laurencin, Mr Fielder and Mrs Thompson.

### **School Website**

Please visit the School's website on a regular basis for reminders and updates about the school year. We are conscious of our responsibilities as an environmentally friendly school and therefore don't want to over burden you with unnecessary paperwork. We recently posted photographs of Remembrance Day which are worth looking at.

### **Sporting Events**

Drapers' Pyrgo football team continue to make a good start to the season. The netball team are also enjoying success and currently hold 3<sup>rd</sup> position in the league. We have also participated in the cluster tag rugby. We were also involved in the Havering schools' cluster tournament (school indoor athletics games) where we had reasonable success. The school continues to offer a wide range of sporting activities which will include Lacrosse for years 3-6 in the New Year.

Many thanks to Mr Ostermeyer, Mrs Persaud and Miss Jones for their commitment to the children.

### **School Uniform**

Please ensure your child returns in January wearing the correct school uniform. We would also like to remind you that shoes should only be black and trainers should only be worn on the playground. We have noticed how smart the children look in their new Drapers' Pyrgo uniforms and would like to thank you for your support during this last term with the changes we have made.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Can we please remind you that children should be in school by 8:40 am. Unfortunately we have noticed a rise in poor punctuality which does have a negative effect on your child's learning.

**It would be wonderful if your child achieved 100% attendance.**

### **Snack Money**

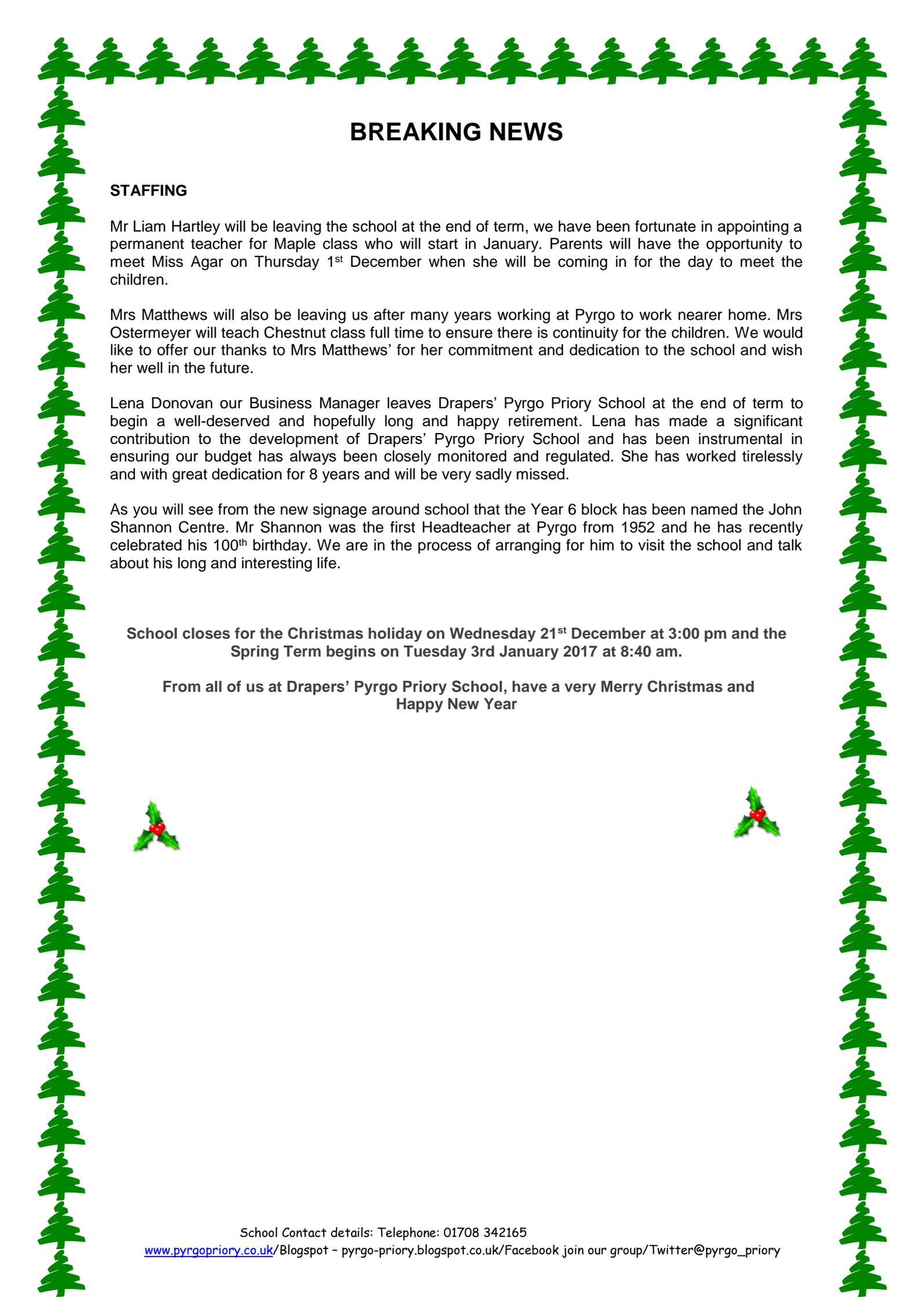
This is due again in January at a cost of £2 for each child in the Infants.

### **Parental request**

We have been approached by several parents each morning to ask the parents who wait outside the junior classrooms to ensure the pathway is kept free. Parents with disabilities and parents with pushchairs are finding it difficult each morning to negotiate their way through the crowd. Also with the increasing traffic please park in designated areas and ensure the safety of our children is paramount.

### **Parent Governor Vacancy**

We have a vacancy on our Local governing body board for a parent governor. If you are interested in this post please contact the school office with your details before the end of term.



## BREAKING NEWS

### STAFFING

Mr Liam Hartley will be leaving the school at the end of term, we have been fortunate in appointing a permanent teacher for Maple class who will start in January. Parents will have the opportunity to meet Miss Agar on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December when she will be coming in for the day to meet the children.

Mrs Matthews will also be leaving us after many years working at Pyrgo to work nearer home. Mrs Ostermeyer will teach Chestnut class full time to ensure there is continuity for the children. We would like to offer our thanks to Mrs Matthews' for her commitment and dedication to the school and wish her well in the future.

Lena Donovan our Business Manager leaves Drapers' Pyrgo Priory School at the end of term to begin a well-deserved and hopefully long and happy retirement. Lena has made a significant contribution to the development of Drapers' Pyrgo Priory School and has been instrumental in ensuring our budget has always been closely monitored and regulated. She has worked tirelessly and with great dedication for 8 years and will be very sadly missed.

As you will see from the new signage around school that the Year 6 block has been named the John Shannon Centre. Mr Shannon was the first Headteacher at Pyrgo from 1952 and he has recently celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. We are in the process of arranging for him to visit the school and talk about his long and interesting life.

**School closes for the Christmas holiday on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 3:00 pm and the Spring Term begins on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 at 8:40 am.**

**From all of us at Drapers' Pyrgo Priory School, have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

