



Drapers' Pyrgo
Priory School



Christmas Newsletter for Parents, Friends and Governors

December 2017

The school hall is adorned with decorations, the corridors are alive with the melody of carol practice and the children's eyes are glinting with anticipation: the Christmas season has arrived once again. Before we are consumed by the festive atmosphere, however, we would like to reflect on the completion of another highly eventful and successful term and look forward to the New Year.

Christmas Performances and Events

This year, we are holding more Christmas events than ever before with the inclusion of separate Y3/4 and Y5/6 performances to try to ensure that all parents can be accommodated safely and comfortably in our hall.

Of course, the children are heavily involved in rehearsals and preparations at present, honing their talents to guarantee you a memorable performance of Christmas songs, dance and drama. We would be very grateful if you would support your children in reciting any lines or songs they have been asked to learn at home.

Please be aware that 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, where our choir will be singing on Friday 15th December.

Mr Matthews will also be performing in his annual pantomime, Dick Whittington, on 5th January, at Drapers' Academy – please see posters. Tickets are being sold through the Office.

On Friday 15th December, we will be holding our annual **Christmas Jumper Day** as well as **class parties**. On this day, children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper with appropriate skirts or trousers and footwear. A donation of £1 is requested (but not obligatory) which will be donated to St Francis' Hospice. We would appreciate small food or drink contributions for our class parties and lists of items required will be displayed outside classrooms in the next few days. Please sign your child's name next to any item you are able to provide. We ask that all contributions arrive in or with their original packaging so that we may ensure cultural and medical needs are catered for. Thank you in advance for your support. **If your child is not able to eat party foods for any reason, please see your child's teacher as soon as possible.**

School Choir

Our school choir has already been very busy this festive season, entertaining the shoppers at Romford Shopping Hall and raising Christmas spirits with an acapella performance of a range of carols at the recent FODS Christmas Bazaar held at Drapers' Academy. Our thanks are due to Mrs Maynard and Mr Laurencin who organised these performances and, of course, to the many children and parents who sang at or attended them. Our talented school choir will be making further appearances at the upcoming Christmas concerts and at our Outdoor Carol Service on 13th December. They will also be performing at St Francis' Hospice on Friday 15th December.

School Contact details: Telephone: 01708 342165

www.draperspyrgo.com / [Blogspot - draperspyrgo.edublogs.org](http://Blogspot-draperspyrgo.edublogs.org) / [Twitter@pyrgo_priory](https://twitter.com/pyrgo_priory)



School Website

Please note that our school website has been 'revamped' making it more accessible and enjoyable for users. We would strongly recommend that you visit it regularly to keep up to date with any important developments and to enjoy the regular updates on our new blog sites. The website holds a host of essential information such as term dates, policies, staff lists etc. all of which might be of use to you.

Sporting Events

During the autumn term, the children have begun to participate in a range of inter-school sporting competitions and leagues: we achieved a respectable 4th in the May and Baker Tag Rugby Tournament; as defending champions, our football 'A Team' has won one and drawn one of their first two matches; our netball league fixtures have fallen victim to bad weather with only one game, a 2 – 3 defeat, being played as yet; and our 'B Team' footballers have also commenced the season with a 2 - 3 defeat, falling victim to a late winner by the visitors who took advantage of a sloping pitch and fading light. We would like to thank all the children and parents who continue to support us during these events, as well as Mr Ostermeyer, Mrs Galliers, Mr Gregory, Mrs Read and Mr Shuffle for their continued dedication to the training and organisation that is required for these events.

Other Events this Term

Over the term, we have held a number of events to support the children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development. Our Open Mic contest, earlier in the term, in which the whole school participated in creating and performing poetry, was a great success, whilst a languages week culminated in a hugely enjoyable assembly in which the children sang in a range of European languages. We also held an assembly dedicated to Remembrance followed by a two-minute silence in the playground, whilst our Anti-bullying Week included a range of PSHE in-class activities and the creation of a whole-school banner now adorning our hall and dedicated assemblies for KS1 and KS2. We are also happy to report that this term's book fair raised around £550 for the school, which has now been spent on new books. Mr Ostermeyer also organised a very successful fund-raising event in which the whole school took part in an athletics event hosted by two Olympic athletes which raised around £3,500 and is still increasing as donations continue to be made. So far, the school has been able to spend around £1,500 on sports equipment.

School Uniform

Please ensure that your child returns in January wearing the correct school uniform. We would also like to remind you that shoes should be black and trainers should be worn only in the playground and during PE lessons.

Uniform items will be available to purchase from Uniform4Kids from 1 January 2018. Please see the school website or www.uniform4kids.com for more details.

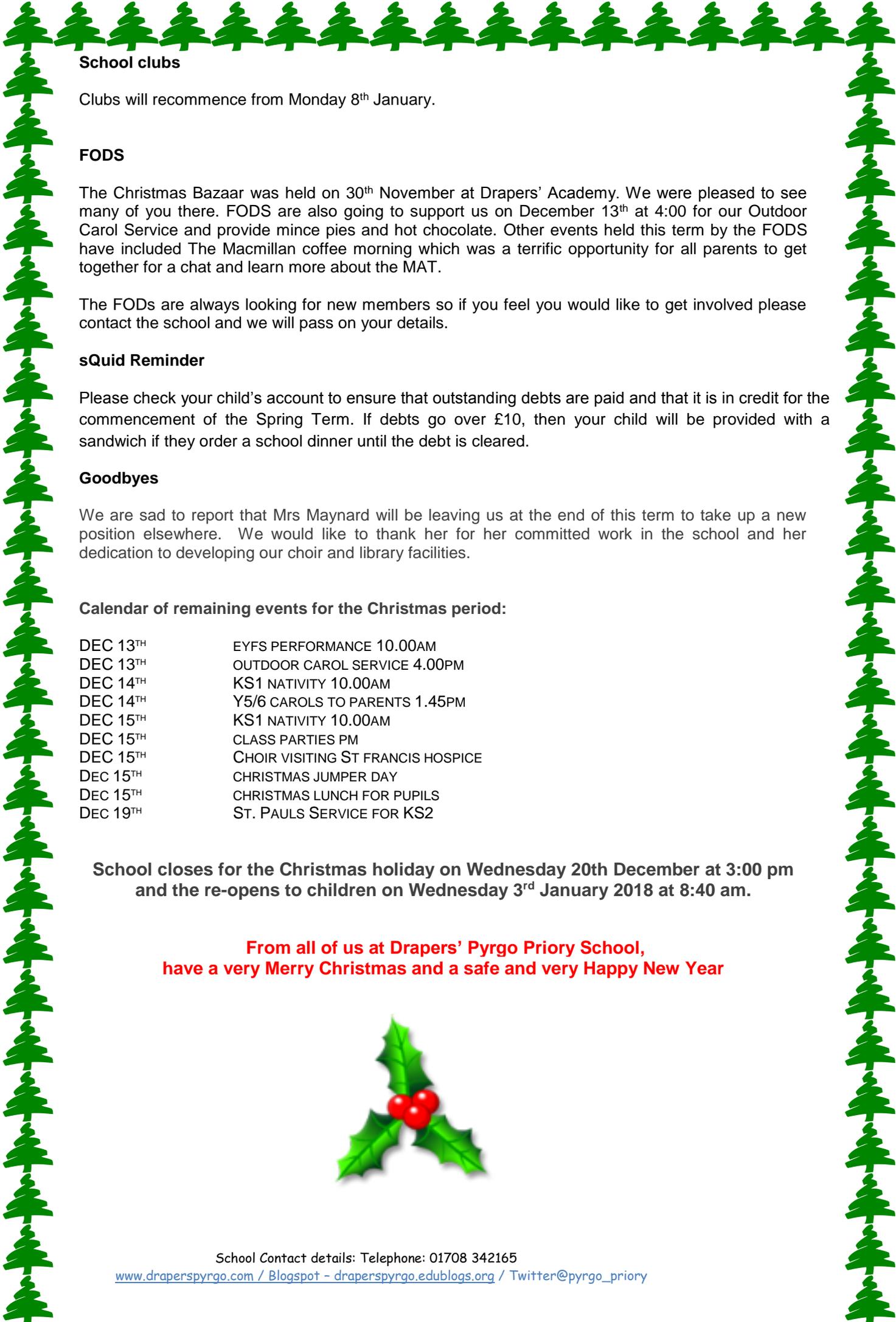
Attendance and Punctuality

Can we please remind you that children should be in school by 8:40 a.m.

We will also be in contact with parents of children who are persistently absent with the intention of arranging meetings to discuss ways in which we might address the problem together. If you require any support from the school in improving your child's attendance, please contact your class teacher or the school office to arrange a meeting to discuss the matter.

Snack Money

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



School clubs

Clubs will recommence from Monday 8th January.

FODS

The Christmas Bazaar was held on 30th November at Drapers' Academy. We were pleased to see many of you there. FODS are also going to support us on December 13th at 4:00 for our Outdoor Carol Service and provide mince pies and hot chocolate. Other events held this term by the FODS have included 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.

sQuid Reminder

Please check your child's account to ensure that outstanding debts are paid and that it is in credit for the commencement of the Spring Term. If debts go over £10, then your child will be provided with a sandwich if they order a school dinner until the debt is cleared.

Goodbyes

We are sad to report that Mrs Maynard will be leaving us at the end of this term to take up a new position elsewhere. We would like to thank her for her committed work in the school and her dedication to developing our choir and library facilities.

Calendar of remaining events for the Christmas period:

DEC 13 TH	EYFS PERFORMANCE 10.00AM
DEC 13 TH	OUTDOOR CAROL SERVICE 4.00PM
DEC 14 TH	KS1 NATIVITY 10.00AM
DEC 14 TH	Y5/6 CAROLS TO PARENTS 1.45PM
DEC 15 TH	KS1 NATIVITY 10.00AM
DEC 15 TH	CLASS PARTIES PM
DEC 15 TH	CHOIR VISITING ST FRANCIS HOSPICE
DEC 15 TH	CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY
DEC 15 TH	CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR PUPILS
DEC 19 TH	ST. PAULS SERVICE FOR KS2

School closes for the Christmas holiday on Wednesday 20th December at 3:00 pm and the re-opens to children on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 at 8:40 am.

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

