



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Week beginning: 12/12/16 Wk 2

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Message from Mrs Helen Glass, Headteacher

Well, here we are with just one week to go before the end of term! I was delighted to attend Haringey's Outstanding for All Awards with our Chairman, Stephen Dunmore earlier this week. Then we had the Year 9 Parents' Evening and it was good to see so many of you there. Also, this week, I went to our first Parent Forum which was well-attended and led to some useful discussions. More information about this will be circulated in due course, as will the date of the next Forum.

There are lots of nice things ahead in the week to come, to get everyone into a festive mood: the Christmas Fair on Sunday 11th, and the Christmas Concert on 13th and 14th; I do hope you can join us for those!

In the meantime, have a good weekend.

Statement on Voluntary Contributions – Ms Keogh, Business Manager

Please find attached a copy of the letter that was sent to all parents/carers on 1st November, regarding voluntary contributions.

Mobile Phone Policy: December Review – Ms Judge, Deputy Head

As promised we have built in an early review of the mobile phone policy. As part of this review we would like to canvass the opinions of parents and carers and have created a survey to enable us to capture those views.

We would be most grateful if as many parents as possible would take a few moments to complete the survey (it will only take a couple of minutes). Here is the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3YPSTJB>

Students will also be able to contribute their views through a survey which they will be able to access next week via Go4Schools under a new subject we have created called 'Student Voice.' Their tutors will explain this to them and remind them to take the opportunity to respond.

Many thanks to all who have already contributed your view via our feedback email earlier this term. We will take everything that have been passed onto us this half term into consideration when reviewing and updating the policy for next term.

Reminder: Non-Registration Texts – Ms Greenwood, Administrator responsible for ParentMail

Please be aware that PMX ParentMail does not currently have the facility to tell you which of your children we are texting you about for Non Registration at the start of the school day. We appreciate that this is frustrating and the ParentMail technical team are working on an update to ensure that this is possible, but that may take a while. In the meantime, there are two ways you can find out which child the message relates to:

- if you have downloaded the PMX App, your child's name will be in the subject heading of the message.

- you can log into PMX ParentMail, click into SMS and you will see the message history. Click on the message you are concerned about and it will say 'Message sent to... regarding...' – the name of the specific child will be shown there.

If you are still unsure or concerned, please call us to determine which child it is that you are being texted about.

Advance Warning: Lessons Start Period 2 on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 – Ms Davey, Deputy Head

Students begin lessons promptly at 10.20am (Period 2) on the first day of the Spring Term (03/01/17). It will be Week 1.

Music Notes

You are warmly invited to our annual Christmas Concert next week – Tues 13 & Weds 14 December 2016, North Wing Hall, 7pm

1. Tickets are on sale via ParentMail £6 adults and £4 children (18 under)
2. Attached is a rehearsal schedule for students, which has been available all week in the music department for collection. It is really important students check when they are needed.
3. Please note the additional orchestra rehearsal this Sunday 1-3pm in the Music Hall, North Wing (music department)
4. Huge congratulations to conductor Thomas Gregory and the Fortismere Community Symphony Orchestra who performed magnificently at St Andrew's Church last Saturday evening. It was wonderful to see so many parents, staff, students, ex-students, music colleagues and friends performing together in a unique orchestra linked directly to our school community.
5. Heads up! – Charity Band Night takes place in early February 2017 – a chance for parents, students, staff, friends, ex-students, professionals to share the stage in school with all profit donated to charity.

Year 10 German Trip to Birmingham-Frankfurt Christmas Market – Mr Lewis

On Wednesday the Year 10 German class were taken to the Birmingham-Frankfurt Christmas Market for a day of Germanic fun with bratwurst and pretzels galore! Mr Lewis, Mr Lockwood and Mr Confino would like to thank our Year 10 Germanists for their exemplary engagement throughout the day. Danke! Ich wünsche Euch allen eine wundervolle Weihnacht mit vielen Geschenken unter Eurem Baum!



Ephesus Charity Collection – Ms Stevenson, Deputy Head of Ephesus

Ephesus are currently working with the charity CARIS Haringey to collect new and unwrapped presents for children affected by homelessness this Christmas. Gifts can be as small or as large as you wish and should cater for children between the ages of 0-14. Some ideas are:

- Pencil cases
- Art materials
- Puzzles
- Dolls
- Lego
- Books

Please encourage students to donate any unwanted gifts that are new. Please give gifts to Ms Stevenson or Ms Mangan by Wednesday 14th December. Thank you!

Alexandria's Secret Santa Charity Event – Ms Cuenca, Head of Alexandria

On Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December, Alexandria will be selling Secret Santa goodie bags to raise money for charity. They can purchase them from 50p and write a message as well. All the presents will be delivered on Thursday during lessons. Could you please advise students to bring money on those days as we can only accept cash! All money raised will go to our charity, Teenage Cancer Trust. Thank you!

Careers Information – Ms N Phillips, Careers Advisor

There is lots of information being added to our website all the time about open days and opportunities that might be of interest to our students, so don't forget to take a look!

In particular, I'd like to draw your attention to the Skills London, which is London's biggest jobs and careers event for young people and takes place at EXCeL London 9-10 December 2016. Aimed at 15-24 year olds, this two day event will provide young people and their families with a rare chance to discover careers through interactive, inspirational activities and demonstrations, and help young people visually bridge the gap between what they enjoy doing and what they could potentially do as a career.

If parents/carers and students want to find out more about the variety of educational providers and employers available, visiting Skills London would be a good starting point.

Reminders from the Admin Team

Absences/Appointments: please remember to report your child's absence/appointment before 8:35am by calling 020 8365 4429 or email attendance@fortismere.org.uk and copy in your child's Form Tutor.

Lost Property: ideally, label your child's possessions so that if they do get mislaid, they can be returned. Alternatively, don't forget to regularly check Lost Property in both Wings for missing items.

From the Library

We've had some amazing entries for the Christmas Six Word Story competition so are extending the deadline to Monday 5pm. Prizes! Either bring your stories to the library or email them to gward@fortismere.org.uk. We'll share some of the winners in next week's newsletter but be warned – some are very bleak... (Actually, there may be an additional prize for one that makes us laugh!)

Our traditional Christmas game of Library Bingo is now in full swing for every Year 7 library class, so sorry if your child comes home hoarse from whooping and cheering – spare a thought for the librarians who oversee it 2 or 3 times a day! Year 8s are having slightly more sedate lessons with our presentation of some of the amazing book trailers out there.

Don't stop reading over the Christmas holidays! Take part in the Reading Agency's Christmas Mini-Challenge <http://bit.ly/2gHhYaJ> - any student who brings in a completed certificate before 13th January 2017 will get a bonus prize from the school library!

And here's a writing competition for those of you in Years 7-9 who love historical fiction. Write your own! <http://bit.ly/2haDQrM>. You've got till the end of May to perfect it...

Used postage stamps to the library for the Hearing Dogs charity please.

Recommended Reads of the Week

Gifts that you'll want to keep... *You Took the Last Bus Home: The Poems of Brian Bilston* is a wonderful collection of short, often hilarious, occasionally poignant, always clever poetry by the Twitter sensation – a book that surprises and delights every time it's opened (6th form/adult stocking filler...) *Odd and the Frost Giants* is a wonderful story by Neil Gaiman which is lavishly illustrated by the genius Children's Laureate, Chris Riddell (stocking filler for anyone who loves beautiful books). The books will be lent by the school library with dire warnings to care for and cherish them!

FSA News

We look forward to welcoming you to the Fortismere Christmas Fair on Sunday 11th December, 12pm-4pm in North Wing (Creighton Avenue entrance). See below for a taste of what will be on offer – there's something for everyone! We do hope you can join us!



Other Ways to Fundraise for the School:

- Donations to the FSA for the school can be given at <https://www.justgiving.com/fortismereschool> – also allowing us to benefit from Gift Aid!
- The Giving Machine – go to www.thegivingmachine.co.uk for more info and to register. Our sign-up code is: 4427.

Contact the school

020 8365 4400 office@fortismere.org.uk