



# IVY CHIMNEYS CHATTER



Happy New Year to everyone!

It is lovely to see the children back after the holiday.

A very special welcome to our new teacher, Miss Childs who has joined us this term and is working in Chestnut Class. In the very short time she has been with us, I'm already impressed by the work she has done to get to know the children quickly. We also welcome three new LSAs to our staff team, Aimee, Gemma and Catherine who were appointed before Christmas.

In my assembly on Monday, I spoke to the children about a writing competition that I am launching where I am encouraging children to think back to and describe their highlights of 2013 and look forward to their hopes for 2014. I am hoping that as many children as possible will participate and be willing to share their writing on our blog site. It would be helpful for their writing to be electronic so that we can simply cut and paste their writing into the blog site. There are book tokens available for the winning entries in both KS1 and KS2, 1st prize - £15, 2nd prize -

£10, 3rd prize - £5. As I explained on Monday, this is a competition to reflect the quality of writing not the quantity. Our EYFS and KS1 children may choose to annotate drawings reflecting their highlights and hopes. I'm looking forward to receiving entries before the closing date of 31st January.

Forty children in Years 5&6 will be attending the BETT Show in London at the ExCeL centre on the 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th January. The children will be representing our school on the feature stand with this year's theme of 'Big Data'. Over the next two weeks, children will be collecting and analysing data in preparation for the event. We will need your support and your answers to some questions that we will be posing online. We will be asking you one question each day from Monday of next week. Look out for the questions via our Twitter and ParentMail notifications.

This week we will be sharing our clubs programme for the Spring Term. Look out for the ParentMail!

Jonathan Furness, Head Teacher

## CERTIFICATES FROM HOME

A lovely addition to our Achievement Assemblies this year has been children bringing in certificates, medals and trophies from activities they have participated in outside of school. I would like to continue to celebrate their achievements but will now be doing this during the whole school assembly on Monday morning. Please do continue to bring these awards into school so that I can present them on Monday instead of Friday.

## NUTS

It came to my attention in the last week before Christmas that a couple of children had brought nuts into school for their snack or lunch. Whilst the health benefits of eating nuts is well recognised, we do need to be mindful of other children who have nut allergies. Could I remind parents not to include nuts or peanut butter in their child's snack or lunchbox.

## CLASSES ON TWITTER

You may have noticed a number of [classes](#) now with Twitter accounts. They are:

@IC\_EYFS @IC\_Chestnut @IC\_Birch @IC\_Elm  
@IC\_Rowan @IC\_Hornbeam @IC\_Plane  
@IC\_Willow @IC\_Beech @IC\_Walnut

## FRIENDS OF IVY CHIMNEYS

We are looking for a range of games to supplement the wet play equipment that we currently have in classrooms. The recent wet weather has highlighted a need to replenish the games that we have available. Please could you consider if there are any games that you no longer use and might be suitable our children to use during break and lunchtimes. Examples include Lego, Monopoly, Connect 4, Snakes & Ladders, Buzzer Game, Frustration, Top Trumps, Twister, Draughts, Chess, some velcro darts & board, and a car track. Thank you!

## SCHOOL CLOSURE DUE TO BAD WEATHER

Should this be necessary due to staff not able to get to school, we will use ParentMail, Twitter and our School website to announce any school closure. A decision will be made as soon as possible on each day.

## CONTACT

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