



# IVY CHIMNEYS CHATTER



This time of year is particularly special in schools, watching the children's excitement grow each day as Christmas nears. Every one of the Christmas shows have been spectacular this year and I'm incredibly proud of how well the children have performed. Of course we are especially grateful for your support in organising their costumes and for the many hours listening to your children rehearsing songs and lines! The donations received at the end of each performance raised a staggering £1581.86 and the majority of this money will go to Great Ormond Street hospital in London, as our chosen charity this year. Thank you parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles!

Our staff have worked incredibly hard over the last 5 weeks which has allowed all children to perform to a very high standard. I hope you will join me in thanking the staff.

In the previous chatter newsletter I mentioned our Christmas Tree entry in the St John's Church Christmas Tree Festival. We learnt last week that our tree had won 1st prize in the schools category. Well done to members of the Woolcraft Club and Tina, Donna and Linda! This is the fourth year in a row that our tree has come first. Thank you to everyone who voted!

Performance data for all schools in England is released today and enables parents to compare children's outcomes at Ivy Chimneys with other schools. As I have mentioned previously, our Year 6 children exceeded National expectations. Since then, we have received two letters; one from the DfE and another from the Director of Learning at Essex County Council. Both letters congratulate staff and pupils for their outstanding contribution, putting Ivy in the upper quartile of schools Nationally (see below.)

## LETTERS FROM ECC & DfE

Clare Kershaw, Director Learning at Essex CC wrote:  
*"I was pleased to see that your school is in the top quartile of Essex schools for the percentage of children who attained at least the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined at Key Stage 2. Congratulations to you and your colleagues on this success, we know that achieving high standards and significant improvement with children is very demanding. Your results have further embedded the depth and breadth of excellence shown in Essex's primary school sector."*

Tim Coulson, Regional Schools Commissioner, DfE wrote:  
*"I was very pleased to see the school's provisional Key Stage 2 results for this summer. Everyone is aware of the higher demands of the tests than in previous years and it was very impressive how well and quickly your staff have adapted and taught children to the standards required."*

@IC\_EYFS @IC\_Chestnut @IC\_Birch @IC\_Elm  
 @IC\_Rowan @IC\_Hornbeam @IC\_Plane @IC\_Maple  
 @IC\_Beech @IC\_Walnut @IC\_Office @IC\_Council @FOICs

Interviews were held yesterday for the position of Catering Manager. After careful deliberation we didn't appoint as I'm determined to find the right person for this school. Therefore we will re-advertise the position in January. In the meantime, I am grateful to Sue Hardy who has agreed to step up to the role in the interim.

Our Year 6 children visited the residents of Wensley House yesterday and sang Christmas songs. It is a real privilege to be able to bring some joy to members of our community.



Our online Advent Calendar has been visited by people from around the globe and there has been much interest shown by our students. Well done and thank you to pupils who are getting involved and responding to the challenge questions behind each door. <http://advent.ivychimneys.net> Please have a look and leave a comment or two!

In the final few days of term, classes will be holding Christmas parties, enjoying the excitement of a pantomime "Oh yes they will!" and bringing in toys and games on the last day. We will also be saying a very sad goodbye to two members of staff, Miss Reilly and Cathy O'Neill. We hope to mark the commitment and contribution that they have made during our final assembly of the term on Wednesday morning.

All there is for me to do is to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and enjoy your time together as a family. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed on the 5th January 2017!

Jonathan Furness, Head Teacher

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Fri 16th Dec** 'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper Day at least £1 donation please.
- Wed 21st Dec** Christmas Dinner & last day of term
- Thurs 5th Jan** First day of Spring Term - children return
- Wed 11th Jan** FOICs Movies and Munch for KS2  
 (NEW: the deadline for M&M places is **Tues 10th Jan**. This deadline will be strictly adhered to due to new safeguarding procedures.)

## DID YOU KNOW?

In adverse weather, if we are unable to open the school due to safety reasons or staff not able to get here, we will notify families through Twitter, our School Website and ParentMail. Please avoid phoning the school. A decision will be made as soon as possible.

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