



IVY CHIMNEYS CHATTER



I am well and truly in the festive spirit now having watched five Christmas shows and several dress rehearsals. Primary schools are lovely places to be during the month of December as they come alive with all the excitement surrounding Christmas. Our Online

Advent Calendar is another huge success, please visit and encourage family members to visit too!

(advent.ivychimneys.net)

We were treated to a fabulous performance by our youngest children in EYFS, when they performed 'The Teddy Bears Save Christmas'. It was a hugely enjoyable show, as the children took us on a journey involving lots of our favourite childhood stories! Yet again, after only 3 months in school, our children, some of whom are only four years old have astonished us all with their fearlessness. The Year 1/2 children performed 'Little Angel Gets Her Wings' brilliantly yesterday with fantastic singing and some very special solo performances too. What confidence our children have to perform to a packed audience at this age! This morning, Year 3/4 children have treated the parents to a montage of Christmas songs and readings in a 'good fun, festive cheer' style performance. We will watch the weather with interest to see if we will be able to perform outside this evening. We look forward to watching Year 5/6 perform next Tuesday morning and evening.

I often comment on how important music and theatrical performance is to developing the whole child. I believe their growing confidence on the stage is connected to their ongoing confidence as learners in the classroom.

As I have mentioned in previous Chatter newsletters, parking on Ivy Chimneys Road continues to frustrate and cause me serious concern. I was pleased to see that the parking enforcement officer has been present of late and this has helped ensure the road is moving freely. I have been in

EARRINGS

I need to draw parents' attention to the change in policy with regards to wearing earrings during PE sessions after Christmas. Currently children who have recently had their ears pierced have been allowed to tape up their earrings during PE sessions. However, following recent accidents at other schools in the county, Essex County Council, have asked me to enforce a blanket 'no earrings policy' during PE. This means that children will not be able to wear earrings at all during PE. It is vitally important that children participate in PE lessons and therefore I am urging support from parents to ensure children save piercing their ears until the beginning of the Summer holiday. Unfortunately, as I am sure you will understand, there can be no individual concessions from January onwards. If children cannot remove earrings, they will not be able to participate in PE lessons.

@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

contact with Epping Forest District Councillors regarding longer term strategies for improving the situation for all Ivy Chimneys Road users, both residents and parents who need to drop-off and pick up. I'm pleased to inform you that I have been made aware that a traffic calming measure has been agreed by the District Council and I'm awaiting further details. I was also notified that the Local Plan which has recently been made available will endeavour to upgrade the road layout in this area. Clearly this won't happen for several years, hence my anticipation of a much needed traffic calming measure in the immediate future.

I'm delighted to announce that the Christmas Fayre raised over £5000 towards future FOICS projects which includes the development of a quiet area for children during break times and lunchtimes (see www.foics.org). Thank you to the FOICS committee and all the parents and volunteers for your support.

Please note that Mr Jones has sent a letter to all parents requesting parent volunteers to sign up to become Sports Champions. Look out for the letter for further details.

Turning to upcoming events, please note the Christmas meal will take place next Friday (15th December) and is available to those children who usually have a school meal. On this day, we will also be raising money for Save the Children in exchange for children wearing a Christmas jumper to school. There is no expectation to buy a jumper for this occasion. Decorating a jumper with tinsel and sparkly accessories would suffice.

Finally, I have just been informed that we have won the Best Dressed Christmas Tree in the St John's Church competition. Thank you to the children, staff and all who voted this year!

This leaves me to wish you a very happy and enjoyable Christmas break and New Year. **We return to school on Wednesday 3rd January 2018!**

Jonathan Furness, Head Teacher

IMPORTANT DATES

7th Dec	Year 3/4 Christmas Performances outside
8th Dec	Achievement Assembly
15th Dec	Achievement Assembly Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Meal
18th Dec	Musical Theatre club performance (9:15 am)
20th Dec	Last day of Autumn Term. School finishes at the normal time.
3rd Jan	Children return to school

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