



IVY CHIMNEYS CHATTER



Happy New Year to you all. I wanted to begin by thanking the whole school community for the kind generosity of best wishes, cards and gifts received, not only by me, but the entire staff team. The staff team and I were incredibly touched by your thoughtfulness.

I should also thank you for the donations collected at the end of each Christmas performance. We raised over £1000 for 1st Theydon Garnon Scout Group to support them in their refurbishment project. I'm especially pleased to be supporting a local organisation which directly benefits many of our children.

Our children never cease to amaze me how quickly they settle into the new term and I have visited classes across the school to see first-hand that they are focussed and ready to learn. Learning really doesn't get much more exciting when a dragon lands on our school playground as the Year 3/4 children found to their astonishment!



I also wanted to draw your attention to the first edition of The Ivy Times; a newspaper created and written by our students who attend the Newspaper Club. The paper is four sides of A4 and contains a wide variety of articles and is not only very impressive but a great read! Sawyer and Madison have sold over 100 copies; a huge achievement of which I am very proud. These have been sold during the school day in classes for 50p. The next edition will be available before the Easter break.



As some of you will have noted, our new front entrance is nearing completion. The new foyer and double door entry system makes our school safer by offering greater control over adults who visit the school. Some of you will also have used a new sign-in and visitor label system in the new foyer area. This ensures that all adults have signed in appropriately however brief their visit. **Unless parents are meeting with school staff, they must stay within the new foyer space rather than be buzzed through the internal doors.** I am very grateful for the many positive comments received and for your ongoing patience whilst this area is being completed.

There is some exciting news regarding the proposal to join the Multi-Academy Trust. Following extensive consultation with staff, parents and the wider community, an application to convert to an academy was accepted by the Department for Education (DfE). The DfE have subsequently issued an 'Academy Order' which enables the school to progress its intentions to become an academy and join the Multi Academy Trust. This new organisation will be called the 'Epping Forest Schools Partnership Trust'. Of course, as I have stated many times, Ivy Chimneys will retain its name, uniform, identity, ethos and autonomy but recognise that a formal Partnership offers many benefits that will enrich the opportunities available to our children and wider community. Please see a letter by David Cooper, Chair of Governors, which is attached to this ParentMail.

Finally, a plea. Can I urge you to keep the evening of Wednesday 21st February free in your diaries? We are currently planning an exciting evening of entertainment for your children (although this is optional) on the proviso that you are able to attend a very important and informative e-safety workshop for all parents. Please save the date!

Jonathan Furness, Head Teacher

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017 & HOPES FOR 2018 COMPETITION

All children are asked to reflect on five highlights of 2017 and five hopes for 2018. This competition is open to all children and responses can be in the form of annotated pictures, text, animation or video! Please see the attached letter with further details.

IVY CHIMNEYS ROAD & PARKING

I am very aware of the challenges parents are facing with parking when dropping off and picking up their children. I am in discussion with Nigel Avey (Conservative Councillor) and Jon Whitehouse (Liberal Democrats Councillor) to consider strategies for slowing down the traffic and eliminating the congestion caused by an significant increase in parked commuter cars.

@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

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 12th January	Walnut Class Assembly
Monday 15th January	Applications close for September 2018 starters
Friday 19th January	Plane Class Assembly
Tuesday 23rd January	FoICS Committee Meeting
Friday 26th January	Elm Class Assembly
Friday 2nd February	Ash Class Assembly
	FoICS Quiz Night
Friday 9th February	Chestnut Class Assembly

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