



FLORA GARDENS PRIMARY SCHOOL

18th December 2015

Dear parents,

The end of a very busy and successful term is now in sight. I am sure you will join me in thanking the staff for the fantastic work they have done this term in guiding and supporting your children.

Highlights must include the choir's performance at the Tri-Borough Christmas festival and our Christmas concerts, these really demonstrate the growth and importance of music at the heart of Flora Gardens. The Year 5 and 6 trip to Nethercott Farm was enjoyed by all, as was their news report from Sky studios. The countless trips and activities at the end of both half terms, culminating the topic work covered and of course the sports results in the Mayor's Cup and the Christmas Bazaar were also highly successful. Thank you to the PTA for all their hard work in making the Bazaar happen.

This half term Year 6 have been working with an organisation called 'Stride' who introduce business into the curriculum and develop pupils' entrepreneurial skills in a fun and interactive way. They have been working in small groups to create business plans, work on a budget, pitch their ideas to a panel and advertise their business. There were some fantastic ideas and I was extremely impressed by the class' maturity and enthusiasm. The culminating event was an enterprise fair in which each group had a stall selling their product. There was such a buzz in the hall and each business seemed to be thriving. In assembly today the Stride team presented our Year 6 pupils with a cheque for over £260 which will go towards the school fund. Well done for all of your hard work Year 6!

The new staff have settled in very well and the LA review further confirmed the progress that the school has made. You can rest assured that we will continue our work to further improve the educational outcomes of the school. As is the norm in all schools, particularly inner London schools, there will be some staff changes after Christmas. Due to unforeseen family circumstances, Mr Etan will be leaving us after only a term and our experienced Deputy Head, Mrs Vass, will be leading Year 5 Flora as class teacher. We will be welcoming Ms Kelly as an Additional Adult in Year 5 Flora, I am sure that you will make her feel very welcome.

I am also delighted to confirm that Miss Graham will be joining us full time after Christmas, as Deputy Head responsible for Teaching and Learning and the curriculum. I am very pleased with the impact that she has had thus far and we all look forward to continue working with her.





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We have had 4 students in through our partnership with St. Mary's University, Twickenham, and I would like to thank Miss Spencer, Miss Grant, Miss Lively and Miss McArdle for their contribution to the school; I'll be keeping a close eye on their progress throughout the year and I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the best in their developing careers. We will be joined fulltime in January by 4 more students from St. Mary's, Miss White, Miss Trillwood, Miss Legg and Miss Western, as they undertake their final placements; again, I am sure they will receive the typical warm welcome from our community. The work we do with St. Mary's University is very important for our own staff development and is also an excellent aid for recruitment when the need arises.

As of January, Years 4, 5 & 6 will no longer have morning reading sessions with parents, this way we can start their learning earlier, making full use of the time we have. However, morning reading will continue in Years 1, 2, & 3 and we encourage parents to attend and support their children's learning.

I am delighted to see the first phases of the development of the site completed, those being the mulch area at the front of the school and the canopy outside Nursery. We have also given the outside area of the Year 1 classroom a great lift with the mural, painted by Positive Arts. I met with the architects on Thursday and they are drawing up the plans for the next phases of our development. I look forward to sharing these with you at some point in the New Year.

I hope you have found our half termly progress reports useful, we will continue to develop these with your feedback so that we can work together to achieve the best outcomes for your children.

I would like to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas holiday and a peaceful and happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

A S Naismith
Acting Head