



Year 4 Trip to National Gallery

Yesterday, year 4 went on a class trip to the National Gallery. This was part of our 'Humans express themselves through art and music' unit of inquiry. At the gallery, we studied 'Rain, Steam and Speed' by JMW Turner, before then looking at 'Sunflowers' by Vincent Van Gogh. Within the impressionism section of the gallery, the class sat and sketched pictures that they particularly liked. Year 4 were very enthusiastic about the art and have left with a better understanding of how artists express themselves in different ways.



Sketching
in the
gallery

Clubs reminder

Next week is the last week for all clubs. Please ensure all outstanding payments are made through ParentPay as soon as possible. There will be **no girls football** next week as Mr Standing is on a course.

Assembly themes

In this week's assemblies, **Ms Luzmore**, spoke about the history of Thanksgiving celebrated in North America. As we are now in Advent, **Rev April** spoke about the surprise announcement to Mary from the Angel Gabriel and how this good news must have felt for her and Joseph.

Keyboard Musicians Assembly

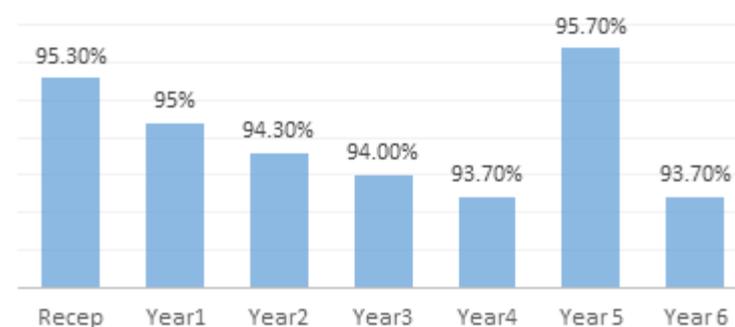
There will be a special musicians' assembly held on Tuesday 13 December at 9.15am. Parents and family members of children involved are very welcome to attend. We will be arranging a musicians' assembly during the Spring term for children who learn an instrument in the secondary school as we know we have many children with talents to share.



PE Kit

The weather has now changed and it's much chillier in the playground. Please make sure children have jogging bottoms for PE sessions rather than shorts and are coming into school in warm coats and jumpers.

Last week's attendance figures



Remember: every day counts!

Dates for your diary

PTSA Christmas Fair **Thursday 8 December** after school at 3.45pm

Keyboard Assembly **Tuesday 13 December** 9.15am

Reception, Year 1 and 2 Nativity performance, **Friday 16 December** 9.30 am and 2pm.

Year 3 – 6 Christmas Carol Service, **Tuesday 20 December** 6pm.

Wednesday 21 December, whole school church service 9.15am and last day of Autumn term.

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Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

This year we are supporting the Rotary Club's Shoe Box Appeal. They provide the shoe boxes and ask for a donation of £2 which can be taped to the outside of the lid, to go towards the transport costs. The boxes are sent to Eastern Europe and are divided into three categories:

- Toys – small toys, colouring books, crayons, felt pens, pencils, notebooks, jigsaws, Lego. **No sweets, war related toys or toys that need batteries please.**
- Teenage – make-up. Toiletries, sports-wear, hats, gloves, scarves, comb and mirror, writing materials etc.
- Household – washing powder, fairy liquid, hand soap, shampoo, toothbrush and paste, disinfectant, letter paper and envelopes, ball point pens etc. (By adding warm gloves or scarf the box is suitable for an older person.)

If you would like to fill a box, please give your name in to Donna in the office and I will get your shoebox to your child's class. We will be collecting the boxes in on **Thursday 15 December.**

Mrs Faucett



Letters

Please ensure permission slips for the Christmas show trips are returned as soon as possible to the school office.

Christmas Fair

Next Thursday is the Christmas fair. Children will be dismissed from the caged court at the end of the day by staff. When they are collected by an adult, they can then make their way back into the school building. There will be a number of different stalls so bring your pocket money and change! Raffle tickets for the fair are on sale from the school office and in the playground.



Reports

In previous years, written pupil reports have been sent out twice a year, with one sent just before Christmas. As I'm sure you are aware, these take up a large amount of staff time to write at a very busy time of year and that standard practice in most primary schools is to send one written report a year. The SLT have decided that this year, with changing leadership and teaching staff, that teachers' will write one report and continue to deliver high quality lessons, carry out robust assessment of children and plan for the Spring term ahead. While the children are on their Christmas break, a large part of staff INSET focus will be in these areas. Parents' evening will be in the first half of the Spring term, so that parents and carers can discuss progress in detail, but you are, of course, very welcome to contact teachers before if you wish to discuss your child's progress.

Ms Luzmore

Marathon Fundraising

At the Christmas Fair, you will notice one of our members of staff, Ricky Osman, who works in IT support for the Academy, selling beautiful Christmas decorations he has laser cut himself. Ricky is running the London Marathon this year and raising money for a small charity called COSMIC (Children of St Mary's Intensive Care) who look after critically ill children. It's a charity close to Ricky's heart and we are very proud of his efforts. I'm sure you will agree, these would make fantastic gifts for others.



Ricky's decorations