



Newsletter 4 **End of Term-December 2011**

Welcome from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

So we come to the end of a long and eventful term. September is now a distant memory and much has been achieved at FKS by children, staff and parents alike. I would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement over the past few months and wish you all a very merry and restful Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Best wishes,
Nick Jones, Headmaster

Mr Robert Ward

This week we say goodbye to Mr. Ward who leaves FKS after a period of eleven years teaching at the school. He has been a very popular figure around the school and will be sadly missed by staff and pupils alike. Mr. Ward is going to remain very busy over the next few months as he undertakes his role of 'Volunteer Gamesmaker' in the anti-doping team at the forthcoming Olympics and we hope he will come back and tell us all about his experience and show us his uniform. We know he is also looking forward to getting onto the golf course on a regular basis and we wish him all the very best and thank him for all that he has done for FKS.

Next term, Mr. Jones will be taking over the teaching of Mr. Ward's Maths sets, whilst we are also delighted to welcome Mrs. Nicola Killen who will be teaching History and RE on a temporary basis. Mr. Jones has been very keen not to rush into appointing a permanent replacement for Mr. Ward at what is an awkward time of the year, and is looking forward to a return to teaching Maths.

Mathletics / Spellodrome

All children should now have received their log in details for both Mathletics and Spellodrome and are encouraged to experiment with using them over the holiday. These have been very well received by the children over the last few weeks and both will be integrated more fully into the school curriculum from the start of next term. A small charge for these will be requested at the start of next term.

Clarion Call

We have had a few problems setting up our new parental communication system but we are confident that it will be up and running at the start of next term. Again, there will be a small charge passed on for the service but we feel that it will represent tremendous value for money and be hugely beneficial.

Questionnaires

Many thanks to everyone who has completed our online questionnaire over the last few weeks. Your responses have been noted and will help to form the basis of the development of FKS over the coming months. If you have not completed a questionnaire so far, we would encourage you to do so over the course of the holidays. Mr. Jones will be scrutinising the replies further before next term. Over the last few days, all of the pupils in Edwards House have also completed a questionnaire so that we can gauge their views on various aspects of life at FKS.



Zimbe Music Concert

Mr. Jones is very keen to see music develop further at FKS and is always looking for opportunities for the children to immerse themselves in musical experiences. We have recently been invited by Mr. Rees, Director of Music at Felsted Preparatory School, to join them and other local schools in a Zimbe Concert of African Music early next term, to launch the Cultural Olympiad. This will be held on Sunday 22nd January at the Lord Riche Hall and we will be inviting all children in Years 5 and 6 to take part. Mr. Rees will come to visit FKS early next term and teach the music to the children. The children would then need to commit to a Saturday rehearsal with the composer on the afternoon of 21st January and another rehearsal the following day in the afternoon before the actual concert in the evening at 7pm. Obviously; participation in this event is optional. Mr. Rees has also extended the invite to any parents who would like to join the adult choir and, if so, you would need to attend the rehearsal with the composer on January 8th between 2pm and 5pm. Further information will follow next term.

Whilst on the subject of music, we are currently looking to widen our peripatetic music provision and hope to be able to offer tuition in a wider range of instruments in the near future. We will keep you updated as this develops.

Uniform

We are hopeful that most of the problems that have been encountered with our uniform provider, Townrow, have now been sorted and we have been assured that most items will be available over the Christmas holidays, with the exception of small sized checked blouses. Until these arrive, the children can wear a plain white blouse. If you have any problems obtaining any other items of uniform, please let us know as soon as possible. We apologise for any inconvenience that has been caused and thank you for your patience.

After School Clubs

You should now have received the list of after school activities being offered at Edwards House for next term. You will note that we have added more 'homework clubs' this term. These can be used as and when and are not a commitment for the term. If you wish your child to stay to a homework club on a particular night then please write a note to your child's form teacher in the homework diary. We are taking note of other suggestions that we have received for future club programmes and we will attempt to act on some of these in the forthcoming terms. After consideration of parental feedback, clubs will now recommence at the start of a term sooner than they have in the past (this term they will begin on Thursday, 12th January) and will continue until later in the term (Spring Term clubs will finish on Wednesday, 28th March). We hope this will assist parents with any childcare issues they may have faced when clubs started later and finished earlier. The nightly after school activity sessions at Andrews House have grown in popularity in recent weeks and will restart on the first day of next term. Please note that Madame Kiddy will now be doing the Wednesday evening sessions. If your child has attended any of these sessions this term then an invoice will be sent to you retrospectively at the start of next term.

Online Information

The website continues to grow and improve and we thank Mr. Sheppard for all he has done with this. There is still a long way to go but we are sure that you will agree it is now a much more impressive and user friendly tool. You should find by now that an outline school diary for next term is already online which will be added to over the coming weeks. You will also find proposed term dates for academic year 2012 – 2013 on the website. Please note, however, that these are still provisional at present.

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Year 6 French Trip

Finally, just a reminder that cheques to the value of £150, to cover the cost of the second deposit, are required by Thursday 11th January. Many thanks.

All that remains is to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a restful holiday!