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THE LAST DAY OF
AUTUMN TERM FOR
PUPILS WILL BE FRIDAY
16 DECEMBER 2011

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PUPILS RETURN TO
SCHOOL AFTER THE
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
ON TUESDAY 3
JANUARY 2012

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Trinity School Newsletter December 2011

Dear Parents

Despite the gloom which has surrounded public services, at Trinity we continue to be supported by the Local Authority and the School Governors. The After School and Saturday Morning Clubs continue to flourish and whilst some funds have 'dried up' it is our intention to continue to keep the clubs open for the foreseeable future. Since September over 100 pupils have attended an After School Club and around 100 have attended a Saturday morning session. As you can see this work is too important to stop. I am aware that the clubs offer not only time for additional teaching but also some much needed respite time for families.

The major refurbishment of the hygiene areas and the construction of a new classroom designed especially for children with profound and multiple learning disabilities is nearing completion and will be fully open during the early part of next term. Our next projects are the building and equipping of a new Early Year's playground and the conversion of the upper floor of 512A Heathway into more space for our Living and Learning Centre.

Trinity remains a popular school and, as with other schools in Barking and Dagenham there has been a steadily increasing demand for places. To meet this demand Trinity School has agreed to increase our capacity to around 275 pupils by Easter 2012.

This term every teacher has had the opportunity to discuss each individual pupil's progress to identify achievements and areas for improvement. This is a regular exercise and demonstrates our commitment to focus on the quality of teaching and learning for each pupil.

We have received the results of the pupil's work from Upper School which has been accredited by external examination boards. This was another successful year with a few disappointments but many outstanding successes.

The Parent Pay system to pay for school meals has been introduced and whilst there have been some minor hiccups, overall the system is working reasonably well. However I do need to remind parents that the prompt 'topping up' of payments significantly helps the efficient administration of the system.

This term we say goodbye to Mrs Jo Chambers who is going to take up the post as the lead teacher in a specialist provision. We are all very proud of Jo. Mrs Nixon a classroom assistant is also leaving. I thank them for all their work here at Trinity and wish them both the very best for the future.



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Christmas Holidays 2011

Monday 19 December -
Monday 2 January
(Inclusive of Bank Holiday)

Spring Half Term 2012

Monday 13 February -
Friday 17 February (Inclusive)

Easter Holiday 2012

Monday 2 April -
Friday 13 April (Inclusive)

May Day 2012

Monday 7 May

Summer Half Term 2012

Monday 4 June -
Friday 8 June (Inclusive of Bank
Holidays)

The last day of Summer Term
for Pupils will be Thursday 19
July 2012

NOTE TO PARENTS

IF YOUR CHILD IS
ABSENT YOU MUST LET
THE SCHOOL KNOW
ON THE FIRST DAY
GIVING THE REASON
FOR ABSENCE E.G.
ILLNESS,
APPOINTMENTS ETC.
ALL ABSENCES
WITHOUT A KNOWN
REASON WILL BE
FOLLOWED UP WITH A
TELEPHONE CALL
FROM THE SCHOOL
OFFICE.

I am pleased to say that we will welcome some new faces to the staff team in January with the addition of teachers and classroom assistants to support our expansion.

After much discussion, there has been a significant improvement in the date by which the Local Authority will be able to inform us of the names of the new pupils. As a consequence from January 2012, a teacher and a speech therapist will be able to make a home visit to each new family who have accepted a place here at the school.

We place a great deal of importance on developing good relations with our families and as a consequence we are able to offer an increase in places both on the Home Intervention course and our two day Parent Training Workshops. Look out for invitations and details.

As you know Trinity School remained open throughout last year's cold and snowy weather. It remains our intention to do our utmost to keep the school open again this year. However in the event that poor weather returns, I urge parents to use the following procedure to find out the status of the school. I assure you that Trinity School will only close when all options to keep open are exhausted.

Barking and Dagenham have provided a telephone service which parents can use to check if schools are open during bad weather by following these simple steps.

1. Telephone 0208 408 7508.
2. You will be asked to enter the following DCFS code – 301 7005.
3. A recorded voice will tell you if the school is closed or open as usual.

My advice to you during severe weather conditions is to always check we are open before attempting to bring your child to school.

Information can also be found on www.lbbd.gov.uk under Education, Schools, Schools Status, and then scroll down to Trinity.

I would like to remind all parents who bring their children to school by car that in the event of snow, the roads on the school grounds could be icy and drivers must be very cautious at all times when dropping off or picking up pupils. I ask that extra care is taken as the school turning circle and parking bays are also used by many pedestrians.

Finally it is with great sadness that I share with you the death of Moses Karbo one of the pupils in the Lower School. Moses was a lovely little boy who will be missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts are with his family at this time of the year.

My best wishes to you all.

Peter McPartland
Headteacher

The Lower School

Lower School continues to be a very exciting place for learning this term as teachers have worked hard on personalising the learning experiences for all your children and seen some great progress in their communication skills. Topics have included Colour and Traditional Tales and we hope you have benefited from the topic overviews we are sending home. We are keen to work with you all to raise all the children's achievements and we hope that if you know which books are the focus, you will try to work on them too at home.

Harvest Festival was a focal point for celebration in the early weeks of this term. A fantastic assembly was attended by all and the children loved the Farmer/Scarecrow dressing up theme. The size of the enormous pumpkin was a great surprise, and the children all got some bread/brioche treats to try.

Signing and Singing the Harvest songs went well and the children have really benefited from Speech and Language Therapy Support. Lower School assembly has benefited from new visual structures and helps to make the experience even more inclusive.

TRINITY SCHOOL
PARENTS
SUPPORT GROUP

CHRISTMAS PARTY
SATURDAY 10
DECEMBER 2011

A GREAT TIME WAS
HAD BY ALL



We hope you will enjoy seeing how these support the children when you come along to our **Christmas Nativity on Thursday 15.12.11 at 1pm.**

Tooth brushing programmes have begun again this term. The Dental Nurse has visited to provide new brushes and dental checks took place before the half term holiday.

As part of our Christmas Celebrations, some of the children who are ready for school trips will be visiting Newham City Farm, where there will be Christmas activities going on. We hope they have fun. Another class will be building their skills for off-site activities by using the minibus for a trip to a local McDonalds.

We are pleased to see all our new pupils have settled well into the life of Lower School. We are continuing to admit new children in the Spring term and home visits are arranged for them in January. We look forward to welcoming them all, as well as our new staff.

Thanks to Chris Komodromos who has been supporting the work of the phase as a manager this term as part of staff training. We welcome Candice Tarling to Lower School to take over this role for the Spring term.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday,

Sue Ball & all the staff and children in Lower School.

The Middle School

This has been an incredibly busy term in Middle School. Our pupils and staff have all been working very, very hard, but we have found plenty of time to enjoy ourselves too.

Many of our classes have been going to ELHAP, our favourite Adventure Playground. We have managed to get a class to visit every week this term and some have been more than once.

Over the past couple of weeks many of our classes have been going out on Christmas trips too.

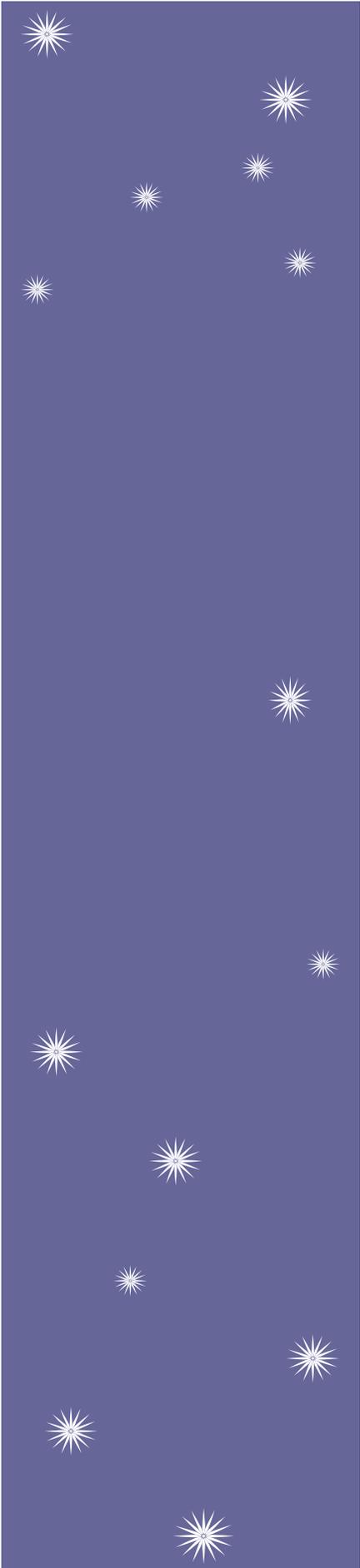
There has been a bowling trip, a trip to Lakeside to see Santa, and several of our classes took part in the President's Sporting Club Christmas Dinner last week at Chelmsford. This week Rainbow Theatre visited us and performed their pantomime Aladdin. Several of our pupils helped with the acting and turned out to be real stars in the making!

We have had several really good assemblies too this term. Every class took part in our Harvest Assembly back in October, sharing drama, singing and art work with the rest of the phase. Years 5/6 presented a lovely assembly on Advent and preparing for Christmas, and Years 7/8 presented the story of Divali for their assembly. We are now all practising for our Christmas assembly next week. Many of our pupils in Middle School have joined the choir and they sang beautifully at our Harvest Assembly.

There has been a lot of good work done by our pupils this term. Years 7/8 have done some fabulous work around the story of the Titanic, The Great Fire of London and Guy Fawkes whilst Years 5/6 have been enjoying all things Victorian and looking at People Who Help Us. There has been some great drama and role play. Years 7/8 have been practising washing cars, and 7/8JC raised some money for charity by washing staff cars for a small charge. We also raised money on Jeans for Genes Day.

Staff have been training hard this term. We have trained with the Physiotherapists, getting new Physio programmes up and running in class, we have had Sound Board and Soundbeam training and we have had training in behaviour management strategies. Some of our staff also took part in the pilot PMLD Training Course.

We are also carrying out subject audits at the moment to ensure that our pupils get the best possible education from us.



Sadly this term we say goodbye to two of our teachers. Jo Chambers is leaving to manage an autism base at Manor School in Barking, and Rebecca Jenner (Instructor) is leaving us for two terms to gain her teaching qualification at Ripple School. We wish them both the very best of luck in their new ventures and thank them for all the good work that they have done in Middle Phase whilst working at Trinity.

Jan Fisher-Sibbons has been acting as one of the Middle Phase Managers for the whole of this term as part of the school's succession training programme, and her tour of duty finishes this week. We would like to thank her for her valuable contribution to the running of the phase this term and all the support she has given us.

Finally, we wish you and your families a great Christmas and all the best for the coming New Year and look forward to seeing all our pupils back again in 2012.

Lynne Kelly and Abby Town, Middle Phase Managers

The Upper School

As we rapidly approach Christmas, we want to share some of the highlights of this busy term. In September we welcomed new students into the phase. They have all settled into the Upper Phase extremely well and have adapted to the different curriculum that is offered in this phase. Equally, the students who have transitioned to the FEC have also settled well and are really enjoying the variety of opportunities open to them.

All students have been working very hard as they have embarked upon their accredited courses and different subjects.

We welcomed back Mike and Sue Lovell who facilitated another 'Seed to Scent Day' for our Year 11 students. As part of the day they produced a Winter flowering garden tub.

In November we hosted our Presentation Afternoon, when students returned to receive their certificates in recognition of their accredited work completed in the Summer. Each student left with several certificates. We were very proud of their achievements. We were pleased that so many parents and friends attended to share in this celebration of achievement.

We have enjoyed two discos' this term. In October it was our 'Scary Night' disco and last week we had the Christmas disco. The students really enjoyed the music, dancing and the prizes!

Work Experience has started for our Year 11 students. Two have successfully completed a two week block at Wellgate Farm. They worked hard and came back with many stories about their experiences. After Christmas, other students will also attend their Work Experience placement.

The Mini Enterprise Scheme continues to be successful. The 2012 calendar has been produced and is selling really well, as are the Christmas gift labels that have been prepared and packaged.

We have had two themed events this term. Spare Tyre Theatre Company presented an afternoon performance of their show 'I'm an Artist, Let Me In!' Most recently, Studio 3 worked for a day with Key Stage 4 students on a work related theme of the circus to create puppets, animation and photography. This was very successful.

The FEC is continually busy, but one event in particular needs to be mentioned. Community Service Volunteers have worked closely with the FEC for many months and this term the project was to entertain a small group of pensioners for a Christmas meal and entertainment. After a great deal of organisation, an extremely successful event took place and was enjoyed by both guests and students.

They have also made personalised Christmas cards to raise money for this event.

Christmas events are in progress. The FEC have been out to a restaurant for their Christmas meal which was enjoyed by all. Key Stage 4 will be having a Christmas buffet next week followed by a disco when the FEC and some Middle School students will also attend. Key Stage 4 will be having a special Christmas assembly with a guest speaker from the locality. On the last day of term, Ken Payne will host the annual karaoke. This is always a highlight to the festivities.

From Sandra Burns & all the students and staff of the Upper Phase, we wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Living & Learning Centre

The all age LLC started in September with the establishment of a new class of three pupils who have autism and challenging behaviours. They were quick in settling into the new class where their individualised programmes rely very much on structured TEACCH. All the three pupils' behaviours have improved very well and they have made very good progress at school. Their improvements in accessing community linked programmes have been very remarkable and all credit to the staff who have adhered to the culture of 'structure towards independent approach' to teaching and learning embedded within the ethos of the LLC.

The centre have also successfully supported another pupil who had been very challenging in the Lower School to access structured activities at the LLC 1 site.

Plans for the opening of the new centre at the former Social Service building is ongoing and building work is expected to be completed by Easter 2012.

When the building work is completed the centre would be able to admit other pupils within the all age LLC who have autism and challenging behaviours.

The LLC now has its own gym with student/pupil friendly equipment. Students/pupils will have further opportunity to engage in physical exercise. Nicky, from the SALT Team and Simone the Music Therapist have been very proactive in delivering their respective therapies to support our students/pupils. Home intervention services were also made available to our students/pupils families and we hope to give greater opportunity for them in the coming year.

We were recently audited by our Headteacher and the overall performance was considered to be outstanding. We look forward to continue to support our cherished students/pupils and their families in the coming year and wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Rolland Dankwa
LLC Manager