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Headteacher:
Mr Peter McPartland

PLEASE NOTE

The Last Day of
The Autumn Term
for Pupils Will Be
On FRIDAY
20 DECEMBER 2013



Pupils Return
To School After The
Christmas Holidays
ON THURSDAY
2 JANUARY 2014



Trinity School Newsletter December 2013

Dear Parents and Carers

As you know Trinity School has always remained opened throughout cold and snowy weather. It remains our intention to do our utmost to keep the school open again this year should there be a return of snow. However, in the event of poor weather, I urge you to use the following procedure to find out the status of the school. I assure you that it is my intention to keep the school open and we will close only when all options to stay open are exhausted.

Information about the school can be found on the LBBDD or the school website at www.trinityschooldagenham.org.uk where there is a box similar to this on the first page of the school's website:

Click here to check if our school is open during adverse weather

Click on this box and you will be taken to a Local Authority web page where there will be an updated message from me specifically about Trinity school. I urge you to look at this page before travelling to the school in poor weather. Please try to avoid telephoning the school directly as our lines are always very busy between 7.30am and 9.30am.

I would like to remind all parents who bring their child to school by car or public transport that in the event of snow the roads in and around the school grounds will be icy. All pedestrians should wear appropriate footwear.

Drivers must also show great caution and take extra care when dropping off or picking up pupils.

Drivers MUST follow the instructions of Denis the Transport Marshall who is there to ensure the safety of all. I also advise you that in poor weather you should allow extra time for dropping off children in the mornings and picking them up in the afternoons. Please remember that there will be a significant increase in cars using the turning circle if the school transport is cancelled.

As I have mentioned on several occasions, Trinity School remains a popular school and we now have over 275 children and young people on roll. Whilst this has put some pressure on the available sports facilities, I am pleased to tell you that the construction of a new covered sports facility is underway and once it is open in the New Year we will continue to offer a first class physical education service.

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Melanie Archer (Deputy Headteacher) and Peter Huggins (Business Manager) who have both retired. I'm sure that you will join me in wishing them a happy retirement and to thank them for their outstanding service to the school and children over many years. We shall miss them.

I have attached for your information a copy of the returns from the last Parent Survey. This survey includes all the comments made about the school.



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Christmas Holidays 2013

Monday 23 December -
Wednesday 1 January 2014
(Inclusive)

Spring Half-Term 2014

Monday 17 February -
Friday 21 February 2014
(Inclusive)

Easter Holidays 2014

Monday 7 April -
Monday 21 April 2014
(Inclusive)

May Bank Holiday 2014

Monday 5 May 2014

Summer Half-Term 2014

Monday 26 May -
Friday 30 May 2014
(Inclusive)

The Last Day of the
Summer Term for Pupils
will be on
Friday 18 July 2014

The returns have influenced the content of our School Improvement Plan. My thanks to all those who returned the questionnaire.

Finally I offer my thanks to you for all your kindness and support that you have given to me and my staff over the term. I do hope that you have a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas holiday.

My Best Wishes to you all

Peter McPartland
Headteacher

**New Telephone
Number to Report
Student Absence:
02087248385**

If your child is absent you must let the school know on the first day of absence (before 9.15 am) giving the reason e.g. illness, appointment etc.

All absences without a known reason will be followed up with a telephone call by the school office.

Lower School



Kamron 13/11/13

Lower School has been a very busy place since the beginning of term - and we have lots of exciting events to tell you about, but first we would like to say a huge welcome to some new members of staff: Lauren Hills, Jemma Line and Bernadette Wakeling, who have joined our teaching team and Dina Kimpton, Camilla McTaggart, Jennie Coker

and Laura West who joined our team of classroom assistants. We also now have the support of three apprentices in the Lower Phase - Rebecca Winter, Demi Hunt and Sherri Pinnock. We wish you all a happy and successful time at Trinity!

And now for our news!

During September work started on our new trim trail and the pupils were so pleased when, within a very short time, they were allowed to use it during their break times. It has proved to be hugely beneficial not only during these times but also as a timetabled activity for pupils with sensory integration issues. Staff are able to structure up circuits as well as organise opportunities for pupils to work safely alongside their peers. We also now have some two-wheeler bikes on the Early Years playground for pupils to use and wellie boots for them to borrow, so they can make the most of the outdoors all year round.



We are also focusing on developing other sensory integration opportunities for our pupils and are beginning to develop resources in classrooms - with some now having safe climbing areas and others quiet multi-sensory corners with dark tents and bubble tubes.

Staff from Lower School continue to develop and extend their skills in these areas and some have also recently participated in week-long PMLD and TEACCH training courses, as well as epilepsy and tracheotomy awareness.

During curriculum time, some of our pupils have been sharing PE lessons with their mainstream peers, whilst others have been taking part in “virtual” multi-skills competitions - where their scores are entered online against those achieved in other schools in the Borough.

Our Acts of Collective Worship continue to be enjoyable and positive events with all of our pupils now attending. During these, we acknowledge class “Stars of the Week”, celebrate birthdays and also sing topic songs to live music provided by our music teacher. We are currently practising songs for our Christmas assembly on Wednesday 18th December - to which families are invited.



This is going to be a sensory experience where pupils share sights, sounds, smells and tastes associated with Christmas.

Our sensory experience days also continue to be positive occasions where we see outstanding social and communication skills from our pupils. Last term, we had a “Festival of Light” with sights, smells, tastes, sounds and textures linked to Divali and Eid and this term, on the 11th December, we created a “Winter Wonderland” for the pupils. They explored art activities with paint and glitter, dressed up as Santa, played bells, made spice flavoured dough and particularly enjoyed the “fake” snow. Let’s hope we have the real version over the holiday!!!!

Some of our pupils also celebrated Christmas by going offsite to see the pantomime at the Broadway Theatre and to meet Father Christmas at Lakeside - we are now hoping that he will actually make a visit to Trinity School to see our pupils! One class of pupils also made Christmas cards which we entered into John Cruddas and Margaret Hodge’s competitions - with four of them winning prizes for their efforts. Handi, Alley and Paul went to the awards ceremony at Dagenham Civic Centre and Faiq had been invited to Barking Town Hall to receive his prize. Congratulations to them all!



Utchwas 19/11/13

All of our pupils have been making progress over the last term and we have chosen a few pieces of work to share with you to show how well they are doing. Each term, we will continue to do this - to share what a wide range of talents the pupils in Lower School have. Finally, all the staff and pupils in Lower School would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and hope that you enjoy the holiday - see you in 2014!

Abby Town – Assistant Headteacher Lower School

Middle School

The Autumn Term has seen lots of exciting events happening for Middle School students. We continue to have our weekly assemblies based around celebration days and curriculum topics and we enjoy celebrating the achievements of the students by presenting our classes ‘Star of the Week’ with a special certificate and sticker.

The Year 7/8 students have had the opportunity to participate in a workshop run by the local police, we had the chance to explore a police car and motorbike.

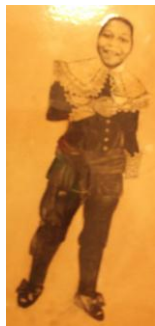
Some students have taken part in a Great Fire of London project over 5 weeks, with the final workshop being held at Museum of London which was a great ending to the project.



Daniel, experiencing how to write with a quill during The Great Fire of London project.

Year 5/6 have been learning about The Victorians and have enjoyed a workshop based around this theme. They have also taken part in a visit to Valence House dressed in Victorian costumes to learn more about Victorian times.

5/6 KS Dressed in Victorian clothes ready for their Valence House trip.



A Victorian Sepia Picture

Some students have represented the school at the annual President's Cup Christmas Sporting Lunch at Harlow where they had the chance to meet some sporting celebrities and enjoy a Christmas lunch.

Some students have visited local shopping centres like Lakeside and Barking to enjoy the festive decorations and meet Santa.



5/6 HC enjoying a trip to explore the festive spirit at Lakeside Shopping Centre

One student in Year 7/8 group was lucky enough to be presented with the Jack Petchey award and decided to use the class money to pay for a class trip of bowling and lunch.

All students have been working hard preparing for our Christmas Assembly with their classes and are very excited about parents coming to watch them perform.

Many classes have taken up the opportunity to visit ELHAP, a leading adventure playground for young people with disabilities and have had a morning exploring their facilities.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Theme Day, where the students will participate in a Christmas production by The Freshwater Theatre Company, enjoy a story telling session of the Dickens classic 'A Christmas Carol' and experience other festive treats.

Finally all the Middle School staff would like to wish all our pupils and their families a very Happy Christmas and a restful New Year.

Jan Fisher-Sibbons
Acting Assistant Headteacher – Middle School

Upper School

Once again it has been a very busy Autumn Term in the Upper School and FEC. The school choir, which is made up with several of our students has gone from strength to strength and this term they performed at The International Day for the Disabled and regularly sing for us during our assembly time.

As part of our Work Related Learning programme, Jewellery Designer Pam Holmes came in to work with several groups of Year 10 and 11 students. They made necklaces, bracelets and key rings some of which were sold with the proceeds going to the charity Sue Ryder Care.

We also held the annual charity day for 'Wearitpink' in October. All money raised helps to fund research into developing a cure for breast cancer. This year we raised the grand total of £720.

Work Experience continues for our Year 10 and Year 14 students. We have placed students at the YMCA in Romford, The Sue Ryder Charity shop on the Heathway and at Wellgate Community Farm. The remaining students will be going to various placements throughout the rest of the school year; these include The Maples Centre, Community Nurseries, Heathlands Day Centre and The Osborne Partnership.

Our PMLD students in the FEC have visited Thurrock Garden Centre this term as part of their vocational curriculum for Work Related Learning. As well as being educational our young people had a very enjoyable, exciting time and it is hoped that similar visits will continue throughout the coming year.

On December 5th we hosted another very pleasant presentation afternoon. Many students, who have now left Trinity School, returned with their parents, carers and friends to receive their certificates in recognition of their accredited work. This provides a fantastic opportunity for us all to recognise and celebrate just how well our students do and how hard they work when they are here. So a huge 'Well Done' goes out to them all.



Students throughout the whole school submitted art work for inclusion in the Trinity calendar that is made by the Upper School as part of their Mini Enterprise curriculum with Mr Payne. Yet again the students have produced a fantastic calendar for 2014 with all the proceeds being fed back into buying resources and equipment to support their learning. They have also made really beautiful decorative bird boxes that the staff have been buying up very quickly.

As the end of term approached with Christmas getting nearer and nearer, many festive activities took place. The FEC went out for their Christmas lunch to the Moby Dick restaurant. Keystage 4 enjoyed a special festive Christmas buffet and Mr Payne provided some fun and entertainment in the form of a Christmas Disco. Other special events that helped to bring the term to a close included a Brass Band Christmas Concert and another spectacular from Mr Payne - 'Trinity's Got the Xmas Factor'. As you can imagine the students had a splendid time at all the events and celebrations that have taken place throughout the term.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy holiday and prosperous new year.

Sandra Burns – Assistant Headteacher – Upper School