

CANNON LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 2nd December 2016

Cannon Lane School Newsletter - Issue 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

Safe Travel to School – EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

Our number one priority is keeping children safe and I know that this is the priority for all parents too. This is the case in school, but also on the way to and from school.

I am fully aware of how busy the roads around school can be at the start and end of the school day. We have 750 children at Cannon Lane now and this number will increase over the next few years.

I know that the start and end of the school day can be a very rushed time for parents and many of you need to get off to work in a hurry. Having said this I would urge each of you to put children's safety first.



What can I do to help?

The Safe Travel Pledge

- 1) Leave home 5 minutes earlier each day to avoid rushing.
- 2) If at all possible, walk to school. It is far safer for everyone and much healthier too. Our website shows a 5 minute and 10 minute walk zone which is designed for children's safety. <http://cannonlaneprimary.org/safe-travel-to-school/>
- 3) Never park on the zig zag lines. These are here for a reason to keep children safe.
- 4) Never park your car on the corner of a road or opposite the school gates. This is against the Highway Code and unsafe for children.
- 5) Avoid carrying out a U-Turn anywhere near the school. This is particularly the case at the end of Chestnut Drive which is a dead end.
- 6) Never obstruct the driveways of our local residents. This is discourteous and highly inappropriate.
- 7) Roads are often more congested on rainy or very cold days. Please remember all of the above when it is wet and take into account the safety of children.

Our children will be much safer if everyone commits to these principles. I would be grateful if you could discuss this in your parent groups and collectively commit to this. WhatsApp groups are a great way of supporting this. I would be very happy to publish in the next newsletter information of any classes (parent groups) who have large numbers of parents pledging support for these principles. Thank you.

Band Festival

On Monday 21st November twenty pupils from Cannon Lane took part in Harrow Music Service's annual Band Festival. This fantastic event brought together musicians from across the borough to form a Band of more than 160 players. The children spent the whole day rehearsing, with only a short break for lunch. All this hard work paid off though as the concert was a complete triumph. The programme, including renditions of "Moves Like Jagger" and "Star Wars", received a rapturous reception from the packed audience.

I would like to extend my congratulations to all the children who took part. I would also like to thank all the parents who continue to support their children in their musical studies both at Cannon Lane and externally. Finally, a big thank you to Mr Carruthers and Mr Wolfe for all their work in preparing the children for the concert.

From Mr Kirwan

Christmas Lunch

Please be reminded that we will be having a Christmas lunch in school on Friday 16th December. If your child is planning to have a hot lunch, please ensure that there are sufficient funds on your 'Squid' account before this date. The school office will be able to assist with how to access your account and transfer money. Thank you.

Inclusion Quality Mark – Flagship School Award presentation



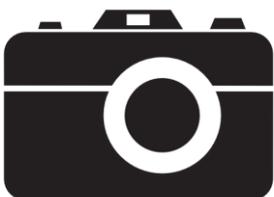
Our school website provides information on our status as an Inclusion Quality Mark Flagship School. This is an award that we are very proud of as it recognises our commitment to ensuring the best possible outcomes for all children.

A few weeks ago, Mrs Patel, Mrs Mistry and Mrs Rea were pleased to accept our award on behalf of the school. This is now displayed proudly in our main reception area!

Christmas trees in school

Thank you to The Friends of Cannon Lane School who contributed towards the purchase of two beautiful Christmas trees which are now up in our school halls for the children to enjoy over the Christmas period. Both trees are around 12' tall and look great! If you know of anyone who would be interested in having these trees at the end of the Autumn Term, we are very happy to give them away (perhaps for a small donation to the Friends). The tree(s) would need to be collected from school on the afternoon of Wednesday 21st December or the morning of Thursday 22nd December. Please contact the school office if you are interested (first-come, first-served!)

Photographs and videos in class assemblies and school performances



As we reach the busy Christmas period I wanted to share the school's policy on the taking of photographs and videos during school performances. We are very happy for parents and grandparents to take photographs of their own children for personal use. As a Rights Respecting School, however, it is important that we observe Article 16 – Every child has the right to privacy. No photographs or videos clips should be shared on public websites or social media sites. Thank you.

Keeping children safe

This week we have been discussing the NSPCC's Underwear Rule in our assemblies and PSHE lessons. The discussions have helped children understand areas such as "appropriate" and "inappropriate" touching, having the right to say no if they feel uncomfortable about something and who your child can turn to if they ever feel upset or worried.

Children have learnt about this using the 'PANTS' acrostic, which is like a green cross code for staying safe.

PANTS stands for:

- Privates are private
- Always remember your body belongs to you
- No means no
- Talk about secrets that upset you
- Speak up, someone can help



If you would like to know more about the NSPCC's campaign and see how you can help keep your children safe in partnership with your child's school, more information can be found at www.nspcc.org.uk/underwearrule

Christmas Post Boxes



Our Christmas post boxes will be in school from Monday 12th December. If children would like to send cards to their friends or members of staff, please ensure that cards are clearly labelled with children's first name, surname and class. Thank you.

Class Christmas Parties!

Our class Christmas parties will take place in school on the afternoon of Tuesday, 20th December. Children are invited to come to school in their party clothes on that day. Please remember that the children will be playing outside as usual, so their clothes need to be comfortable and warm.

These parties do not replace lunchtimes and hot meals will be available as usual, or alternatively please bring a packed lunch. Children will bring some more information home next week and we would be very grateful if parents could provide some food (for 6 children) which will be suggested. We are very grateful for any donations you can give.

End of term

The Autumn Term ends on **Wednesday 21st December**. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 finish school at **1.25pm** children in Years 3 – 6 finish school at **1.30pm**. Children return to school on Thursday 5th January at the usual start time.

I look forward to seeing many of you tomorrow at our Christmas Fair (12.00-3.00pm)!

Mr A Phillips
Headteacher