



# The Phoenix Newsletter

December 2011



THE PHOENIX SCHOOL

Dear Parents

It hardly seems a half term ago that I was writing to you just before the mid-term break. A lot has happened during the last few weeks and as ever, the children have been busy in and out of the classroom. We are now looking forward to our final week this term and there are lots of exciting activities ahead; please see overleaf for further details.

As 2011 draws to a close, we say farewell to a number of colleagues who are moving on to pastures new. We wish Miss Dina Hamalis luck in her promotion to the post of Director of Studies at Sarum Hall; Mrs Ryan will take over the role of class teacher to the Nightingales class. Mirela Treves has informed me that she will not be returning to The Phoenix after her maternity cover in order that she can spend more time with her family. From January, Miss Jacqui Pendrill will take over this role and we therefore say goodbye to Hannah O'Connor, the Ducklings' class teacher, who is going off to do an MA in Early Years. Sophie Hassell will also be leaving the school so that she can go travelling in the new year. One of our other teaching assistants, Miss Dita Villas, will be leaving her position in Year 2 so that she can further her career opportunities. These teaching assistant positions will be filled by Miss Ronni North and Ms Julia Meyersohn respectively. We wish all our departing colleagues the very best for their futures and thank them for their valued contributions to The Phoenix.

Miss Toffel has been busy with her wedding preparations and we wish her and her fiancée all the very best for their big day on the first Sunday of the holiday. Miss Toffel will return to school after the break as Mrs Landau.

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the co-chairpersons of the Parents' Guild: Mandy Tafler, Anna Morris and Gemma Riche for the fantastic job they have done over the past year. Their enthusiasm, hard work and excellent organisational skills have meant that not only has The Phoenix community benefited from some wonderful events but also an enormous amount of money has been raised for our charities. The children thoroughly enjoyed the disco held in November and the Quiz Night was good fun for adults; well done to the teachers' table for winning! In the new year, Karen Zakaim, Catherine Robinson and Sophie Gershinson will be taking over the running of the Parent Guild and we wish them all the best in their endeavours.

Finally, may I wish you and your families season's greetings and a very restful and happy holiday and all the very best for the new year.

*Caroline Ford.*

## Important Information Regarding Events during the Last Week of Term

Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Reports go out.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery attend the Dress Rehearsal of the Primary Production. Normal pick up time at The Phoenix. Carol Service at Hampstead Parish Church at 5.00pm.
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Primary Production at The Lund Theatre at 10.00am. All primary children will return to school for parties in their year groups. Nursery children have a Puppet Show in the morning.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery children have a dressing up party.

## Trips and Visits

Some of the exciting trips and visits this term have included:

### Reception

Tree Troll making was high on the agenda when the Reception classes went to the Ecology Centre at Holland Park. It was an exciting day with the added bonus of watching a tree surgeon in action and observing a bird specialist, Phil who was auditing the birds visiting the area. Many thanks to our parent helpers who survived the crisp cool November weather and enjoyed exploring the natural environment with the children.

### Year 1

Year 1 enjoyed a fantastic day out at The Museum of London in order to supplement their learning on The Great Fire of London. This topic has been a fascinating insight into London life in the past. While they were at the museum, the children had the opportunity to role play some of the more famous characters associated with this historical event.

### Year 2

In conjunction with their topic about 'Remembrance', the Year 2 children enjoyed a fantastic day at The Imperial War Museum. Highlights included: a walk through the museum's very realistic model of a World War One trench and very informative workshop about why we remember those who gave their lives in the two World Wars.

## Key Dates for Next Term

Year 2 children have a warm up day for 7+ on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

The staff have an Inset Day on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

Children return to school on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

Half Term is during the week Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February (inclusive).

We break up for the Easter holiday on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March. This is a half day for the children.

## Sports, Swimming & Clubs

**Charities**  
The school raised  
**£140.57**  
on Number Day

Thank you for your support!

Commencement dates for sports and swimming are below:

### Sports Fields

Year 1	starts on	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January
Reception	starts on	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 2	starts on	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> January

### Swimming

Year 1	starts on	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 2	starts on	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January

Please see the separate orange sheet regarding the Clubs Programme.