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## Happy Holidays

The whole team here at Ark Paddington Green would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday. It marks the ending of 2017 and bringing in the New Year of 2018. If you are celebrating Christmas, then we hope it is a special time. If not, we hope you can all spend quality time with friends and family.....and of course don't forget to read every day!



## Festive Sing-along

Thank you parents and carers for the incredible turn out at this year's festive songs event, yesterday afternoon. Our children feel very proud when their parents and carers manage to find the time to come and watch them. We thought all our children sang beautifully and wore stunning accessories. The violin, viola and cello players in Year 3, 4, and 5 were particularly successful. Last year we asked you if you would like to take part in some community singing. You answered enthusiastically a year ago and this year showed us your singing talents, including a song in French! Thank you for your wonderful participation. We are truly very lucky to have such fabulous support from you all. We would like to extend our thanks to the music teachers Hannah Hayes, Mark Bobson, and Stavros Choplaros and Hager Mousa for the progress our children have already made. And finally, a particularly special thank you to Lauren Todd for leading the event again this year.



## Open School

Thank you to the 37 parents and carers (23% of our families) who joined us for our open school on Monday to observe maths meetings across the school. It was wonderful to see you joining in with rolling numbers songs and other maths activities. Look out for the next open school opportunity next half term, where you will be able to observe Phonics in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 and Read to Succeed in Years 2 to 6.

## APG vs KSA!



On Thursday 14th December, our Year 6 children played football matches against King Solomon Academy. Unfortunately, our girls team lost, in their first ever match, but they played with commendable sportsmanship and persevered throughout the tough fixture. They should be so proud of themselves. The boys competed in an extremely close encounter with a draw result. Both teams played with incredible spirit and we were unlucky not to snatch the win. Mr Gregory and Mr Gair want to congratulate all of the children that participated. This was

not just for their performances, but also for the manner in which they conducted themselves following the games, congratulating the opposition and even doing their maths homework! We are so proud of you. Well done.

## Shepherd's Hut

Our 'Growing with Nature' Project, funded by the Tesco's Bags of Help Scheme in January 2017, has been a fantastic, year long journey for our school community. Thank you to



all the families, friends and staff who voted for our project in Tesco stores over a year ago. Our project received the most votes and was awarded the first prize grant. We now have a beautiful and thriving wildlife pond, five family food growing plots - available for leasing in early Spring 2018, and our new Shepherd's Hut which provides us with both a sheltered, community space for learning and workshops, and a 'hub' for use during volunteer days. A very BIG thank you goes out to the Tesco's Bags of Help Scheme for giving us the opportunity to enhance our school grounds for the benefit of wildlife and the school community.

## After school clubs

A reminder that after school clubs start again from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Please collect children promptly at 4.15pm. All current clubs, apart from the new Dance club, will close in February. They will re-open after half term to allow children on waiting lists an opportunity to participate in a club until the end of the school year. Breakfast club will still be open every day for children who have a place.

## Upcoming events:

Thursday 4 January	First day of school in the New Year – lessons as normal
Mon 8 January	2.00 – 2.50 <b>Nursery</b> Home learning workshop
Tues 9 January	2.15- 3.30 <b>Year 1</b> Home learning workshop
Wed 10 January	2.15- 3.30 <b>Year 6</b> Home learning workshop
Thurs 11 January	2.15- 3.30 <b>Year 5</b> Home learning workshop
Fri 12 January	2.15- 3.30 <b>Year 4</b> Home learning workshop
Tues 16 January	2.15- 3.30 <b>Year 2</b> Home learning workshop
Wed 17 January	2.15- 3.30 <b>Year 3</b> Home learning workshop
Thurs 18 January <i>New date</i>	2.45-3.30 <b>Reception</b> Home learning workshop
Monday 15 January	<b>Parents' evening</b> 3-5.30pm
Monday 22 January	<b>Parents' evening</b> 2-5.00pm

