

# SHERINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wyndcliff Road, Charlton, London, SE7 7JP

Telephone: (020) 8858 5497

Email: [headteacher@sherington.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@sherington.greenwich.sch.uk)

Web: [www.sheringtonprimary.co.uk](http://www.sheringtonprimary.co.uk)

Acting Headteacher: Amanda Burnell Acting Deputy: Dan O'Leary SBM: Susie Healy



19<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear parents,

If you attended the KS2 Christmas concert this week, you might have recognised the narrative as that of Dylan Thomas. In *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, he writes about the memories he has of being a young boy; the poetic, vivid descriptions of a white landscape; humorous recollections of family get-togethers and friendships. Our childhood and family experiences are important; we need to tend to the *making* of memories.

Over the recent weeks, we've all been working to exercise the virtue of transcendence and the strengths of hope (optimism) and gratitude in particular. This has resulted in many thank you notes from pupils. What a joy it has been. Over the holiday, I suggest we take the time to reflect on all the people that mean (or have meant) something to us and show our thanks – in whatever way is possible. As I mentioned at the concerts, love and kindness are the most precious gifts that we can give. Showing our gratitude is another.

This term, I've endeavoured to communicate more comprehensively through the weekly newsletter, sharing information about a wider range of events that happen at school. In doing them routinely, there can be a danger in taking it for granted that our community knows about them. So I thank you for your feedback. It has highlighted to me that many in our community, especially our newer families, are unaware of the positive education and learning opportunities that we provide. There have been many events that have involved parents such as: meet the teachers' sessions; open English mornings; Reception mornings; parents' evenings, to name a few. But this term, I've tried to keep you better informed about the things that happen more routinely at Sherington: the focus for our character strengths assemblies; visitors such as the storyteller, Jan Blake and Mr Henry, one of our parents (both of whom came in to help celebrate Black History Month). I hope that I have gone part way to doing that.

Jan Blake's visit was a huge success – she is a mesmerising storyteller. Her artistry and skill meant that our nursery children and upper key stage 2 pupils enjoyed it equally. The day was made possible through a financial contribution from the **Friends of Sherington** (FoS). This group of parents work together to organise events such as the recent Christmas fair. Whilst the raising of funds is always welcomed, the wider purpose of bringing the community together is also an important one. The FoS would welcome **new volunteers** - parents who have some time to give to help organise and run social and fundraising events. If you'd like to play more of a part in this, then please do leave your name and contact details with the office. We appreciate and value our partnership working with parents enormously.



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The school's academic results for last year are impressive, and can be found on our website. Our progress measures are excellent and comparisons with other schools can be found on <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools&region=203&geographic=la&for=primary&basedon=Overall%20performance&show=All%20pupils>

We continue to work collaboratively with **governors and the local authority** in order to provide the best possible **character and academic education** for your children. Barbara Foster, our Improvement Partner (IP) from the RBG visited in mid-October and found that *'Pupils were very engaged during the learning walk and the IP felt that behaviour was exceptional. Pupils were very respectful and rightly proud of their work.'* We look forward to working more closely with Ms Foster over the coming terms.

Today we say goodbye to Ms Schmidt, Mr Potter and Mrs Fuller. We would also like to thank Mrs Mullen who has been teaching in year 3 for the last half term. We wish them well for the future. In January, we welcome to our staff Ms Markiewicz, who will teach in 3S, Mrs Stewart who will be teaching 5P and Ms Thilthorpe who joins the year 6 teaching team in preparation for Ms Cole's maternity leave later in the spring term.

I hope that you all have a peaceful and restorative holiday. The advice I'm taking this year comes from our Poet Laureate, Alex Busari, in his poem, *Christmas*

*'As the time to prepare is upon us*

*Take time to stop'*

Thank you for the reminder Alex.

Amanda Burnell

Acting Headteacher



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