

## Dear River Bank parents and carers

Despite the dark and wet conditions, there is a lot to be thankful for at this time of year. We have a wonderful school, brilliant staff and absolutely amazing pupils. Your children have been brilliant this year – they are caring, polite, excellently behaved and work as hard as they can. They are a credit to all of you!

At this time of year we ask pupils to consider others who may be less fortunate than themselves. The message of the Christmas story helps us think about sacrifice, vulnerability and hope. Our hope is that pupils will continue to grow and develop as we move in to 2019 – loving others and trying their best. I hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas break and I pray that you will all be blessed in the New Year.

## Save the Children

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December many of our pupils wore Christmas jumpers and donated money to support the work of the Save the Children charity. The effects of child poverty can be devastating – and it lasts a lifetime. Around the world, the poorest children are most at risk of disease, malnutrition and stunting. They're more likely to miss out on school, or get a poor quality education. And there's a greater chance they'll suffer early marriage, physical violence or child labour. It is for this reason that we wanted to do something to help. Our pupils raised an amazing £407.66 – we hope that this amount will make a difference to the lives of children, somewhere in the world.

## Tucasi

When paying for school meals on line – you will not be able to pay using American Express cards. They are not compatible with the system. Please use an alternative method – if this causes a problem, please come and speak to one of our office staff.

## Early Years Nativity

Huge sections of our school community came together on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December to enjoy our Early Year's nativity performance. Parents, teachers and governors thoroughly enjoyed the Wiggly Nativity. Our youngest pupils did us proud. They were confident and clear when they spoke and sang like angels. Well done to everyone involved!

## Children Who Are Late

Children who arrive at school late must be dropped off in the school reception. Staff will take your children to class from there but it is the parent's responsibility to sign them in on the screen in the reception area.

## Thank You

We would like to pass on our huge thanks to the parents of Aldwickbury School in Harpenden. Liz Gray, a parent at the school, coordinated a collection of toys and clothes that were donated to the family team here at River Bank. These have now been distributed to families in our community.



## Dates for your Diary

8<sup>th</sup> January  
9<sup>th</sup> January  
14<sup>th</sup> January  
16<sup>th</sup> January  
23<sup>rd</sup> January  
4<sup>th</sup> February

Pupils return to school for the spring term  
Year one – reading with parents  
Year two SATs meeting for parents  
Year two - reading with parents  
Lark Class assembly  
Wren Class assembly

## Sporting Success – Year Five Basketball

Well done to the pupils who did so well at a recent basketball competition. The pupils played brilliantly and enjoyed their first experience of competitive basketball. Thank you for taking part Amiyah, Alan, Habiba, Rico and Kuba.

## Playground

You will all be able to see that we have invested heavily in the playground. This includes play equipment, playground markings and bins. Please help us keep our playground tidy by ensuring that all litter is taken home or put in the bins – especially food wrappers and tissues. Please also refrain from bringing dogs on to the playground – even if they are being carried or on a lead.

## Sporting Success – Year Five Football

Our year five boys went out on a cold and wet day to represent the school in a five a side competition. The pupils performed really well and get better with each competitive fixture that they are involved in. Well done to Umair, Kuba, Rico, Marcel, Jayden, Mikael, Eshan and Alan.

## Year Five trip to Warner Bros. Studio – Harry Potter

“On the Harry Potter trip we did a lot of exciting things. My favourite part was when we went to the Forbidden Forest. The best part about the forest was when the big spiders pop out. It was terrifying! I would love to go again because it had lots of things that I’ve always wanted to see.” Lana in Willow Class

“I really liked the Harry Potter trip, my favourite part was the Forbidden Forest, especially when Aragog comes out of the trees, but I also thought searching the studios for the golden snitches was fun too – sometimes they were really difficult to find. I would really like to go back to the studios so that I could go inside the Knight Bus.” Tobias in Willow Class



January's value of the month is **INSPIRATION**