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Headteacher Mr Gwyn Pritchard B(Ed) Hons, NPQH

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## **Headteacher's Newsletter**

I hope that you all had a good half term holidays (its feels a world away now!). I have been around all classes this week and I have seen lots of fantastic learning taking place. It was also great to see so many parents at parent consultations this week.

### **Staff**

It has been lovely to welcome Mrs Magwood (formally Miss Matthews) back this week. I would like to thank Miss Caianello (who was employed to cover Mrs Magwoods maternity leave) for her hard work. Mrs Magwood will initially be returning 3 days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) but will return to work full time after she has settled. Mrs Chin (Rabbit class teacher) will sadly be leaving us at the end of term. I am currently recruiting for her replacement and I will get back to you when I have more information.

### **Parking**

I was surprised this week to witness a parent, who was parked over the yellow lines on the corner facing the school, almost run over a pupil and their grandparent. It is not acceptable to put safety at risk and I would remind parents that they should not park over the corner.

### **Holidays**

I have seen a significant rise in requests for term time holidays. I would ask that if you are planning to take a holiday that these are taken during the school holidays. It is really important that children attend school regularly so that pupils do not miss the teaching that is taking place in school. If pupils miss school, there will be gaps in their learning which will need to be filled and could impact on their future learning.

### **Barnaby Bear**

Just to remind parents that we have a school bear called Barnaby. If you would like to take Barnaby on holiday with you in the school holidays or over the weekend, then please ask your child to write a letter to Barnaby. I am sure he would like a trip away!

### **Christmas**

Our Christmas plays this year will be on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December for children in Reception and Nursery and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December for Year 1 and 2. Plays always start at 9.15 and generally last up to an hour. Following each performance, I would invite parents to share coffee and mince pies with me. The Friday performance for both plays is always for adults only and I would ask that if any children in the Thursday performance are noisy that you take them out of the hall. On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December we also have a carol concert. All members of the Parkgate community are invited e.g. grandparents, to sing some Christmas songs and share cake and coffee.

### **Panto**

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be going to the Watford Palace theatre pantomime. Parents will not need to contribute to the cost as we will be

using funds we have raised over the last few years. A letter will be sent home in the next week so that you can give permission for your children to attend.

### **Parent Reps**

A few weeks ago I met our new parent reps for the first time. A reminder that you can catch them on the playground or using the parent rep e-mail address (which is the class name followed by [.parent.rep@parkgateinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:parent.rep@parkgateinfants.herts.sch.uk)). We are missing parent reps for Ducklings, Mole, Rabbit and Squirrel classes. If you are interested in becoming a parent rep then please speak to the school office.

Thank you for your continued support. As always, please contact me if you have any queries or concerns. If you wish to make an appointment, please speak to Mrs. Ryan in the school office who will be able to book a mutually convenient time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gwyn Pritchard', written in a cursive style.

Mr Gwyn Pritchard  
Headteacher