

# SEASON'S GREETINGS

Dear parents/carers,  
Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter. We hope that you have some wonderful plans over the festive period, whether you celebrate Christmas or not; it's always a great time to reconnect and build memories with your family.

We are so thrilled with the children's performances in the **Christmas Concerts** last week. The children did a wonderful job of learning quite difficult songs, along with remembering the actions and some elements of signing as well; I'm so proud of them. As I said on the day, I want to thank the fabulous staff at Rebecca Cheetham for their dedication and commitment to bringing these things to life and offering children such experiences. I also want to thank you all for joining us in celebration of their hard work. A gentle reminder also to not post any photos or footage on social media.

We are excited to launch our **Sustainable Citizenship In the Early Years** project with our parents. In order to achieve the Bronze Award for our setting we NEED your involvement. I have put together a pdf detailing what we need our parents to do and how they can help us achieve this prestigious award. If you feel confident, you are welcome to make a start on this straight away, but I will also be running a parent workshop on this in January. Here is a link to the information:

<https://www.rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=752&type=pdf>

We need a minimum of **60% of parental involvement** in order to achieve the award so we are counting on your support.

Thank you to those that attended our last Parent Forum on Mark Making. We hope you found it useful and walked away with some helpful tools to use at home! Our next **Parent Forum is on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 9am and 2pm**. (Please note the date change) This is one session you don't want to miss! Farhana will give you some excellent techniques and dispel some Maths myths. Here is the link:

<https://www.rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=755&type=pdf>

Don't forget that the deadline for **Primary School Applications** is: 15th January 2024! If your child was born between 1st September 2019 to 31 August 2020, you will need to apply for a Primary School Place. We sent out reminder messages to all those parents/carers who have not yet submitted. Remember that it may be more difficult to get your first choice if you submit a late application. Please contact the front office if you need any help with the application.

Wednesday 20th December is our official last day for Government funded children. Extended Day children finish on Friday 22nd December 2023 and can return on Tuesday 2nd January 2024. The official return date for all other children is Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

Please note that we have a **whole school closure date on Friday 5th January 2024**; the Nursery and Children's Centre will be closed to all.

You should have received your children's **Evidence Me** updates and I think you will find that the children are making some great progress during their time here at Rebecca Cheetham. Please comment with your thoughts as the team work hard to provide meaningful and worthwhile updates for you.

Our **Children's Centre** wanted to remind you that their **January - March 2024 Activity Calendar** is out now. Here is the link:

<https://www.rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=751&type=pdf>

Following our festive closure, their sessions will resume from Wednesday 3rd January 2024. Please note: We are closed on Friday 5th January for staff training. Don't forget to check when your favourite sessions are running in the new year! The majority of our sessions will still require bookings. This can be done by calling us on 0208 534 3136 one week in advance. We look forward to you continuing to join us with your under 5's

This brings our Christmas Update to a close. As I type this newsletter, the children have been enjoying their classroom parties and it has been a joy to see them having fun with their friends and behaving in such a calm and gentle manner. I'm sure they will continue to sing their Christmas songs to you right through to 2024.

**Best wishes for a wonderful festive break and we look forward to welcoming you back to Rebecca Cheetham in 2024.**

