

Headteacher: Helen Carvall

Deputy Headteachers: Amber Pearless
Vivian Bull

Tel: 020 8653 2619



Rockmount Primary School
Chevening Road
Upper Norwood
London
SE19 3ST

office@rockmount.croydon.sch.uk
www.rockmountprimaryschool.co.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The festive period has been in full swing at Rockmount over the past week! We hope that those of you who have already attended some of our Christmas performances have enjoyed them and that our 'Christmas Around the World' decorations made by the children have added to the festive cheer.

We would like to thank the school community for visiting in your masses at the Winter Fair last Friday after school. It was a fantastic event giving us all the opportunity to listen to our wonderful choir, sample some delicious food and drinks, buy some of the goods the children had made or baked during the week as well as some of the wonderful crafts and goods from other stalls. Huge thanks to our Rockmount Friends and Community (RFC) and their very willing helpers for such a wonderful community get together. We managed to raise just over £4000 during the fair which is incredible!

Last Wednesday we all enjoyed taking part in 'No Pens Day' with a wide range of creative activities planned for the day. No Pens Day is a day set aside for children to learn without the need for written recording and to showcase their skills through speaking, listening and working practically. We painted with our feet, cooked, enjoyed drama and role play sessions, carried out science experiments and rehearsed our performances. It was a great day with a refreshing take on how children can learn in school.

On Thursday, we had a lovely Christmas Lunch and our thanks go to the kitchen and lunchtime teams for all their hard work. The food was extremely tasty and staff enjoyed sharing lunch and the hysterical jokes in the crackers with their classes.

It is a busy period of time in school at the moment so please do refer to the school website calendar under 'News and Events' to check dates and times for all events and don't forget to look under 'Latest News' on the website homepage to see some of the photographs.

The next Rockmount Community Club will be held on Sunday 17th December between 10.00 and 12.00. This time there will be a focus on festive crafts with children making decorations, gingerbread men, planting up gift bulb containers as well as some delicious hot food around the fire pit. Please do sign up on the link sent out this week if you would like to join in so that we know how many to cater for.

Our Year 6 Pupil Leaders will be talking to classes next week about the work of 'Save the Children'. For the Christmas Party day on Wednesday 20th December, they will be asking everyone to 'Get Your Sparkle On' by wearing something festive or a Christmas jumper. The children will be collecting donations for 'Save the Children' and anything you are able to give will be greatly appreciated.

We will also be collecting donations of food, toiletries, small gifts or festive items to make up some support parcels for families over the winter break. Please bring any donations to the school office by Friday 15th December to allow us sufficient time to make up parcels. Some families have expressed the wish to give a financial donation, either as a one off or as a more regular contribution. Should

you wish to do this, please contact Dorothy Bentil through the school office. We are extremely grateful for the generosity and support the school community continues to demonstrate.

Lastly, many thanks to all parents and carers who have ensured their children are through the school gates by **8.45** in the morning at the latest. Our phonics and reading sessions which make a quick start at 8.50 are running well without the interruptions of late arrivals!

Best wishes to you all for a lovely weekend,

Helen Carvall