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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much to the families who joined us in the school grounds for our latest Community Club last Sunday morning. We managed to plant some pots of bulbs up, clear away the overgrown areas and we sacked up loads of leaves to rot down to mulch over the winter months. Our new shredder was put to good use as we have started to clear the composting area at the back of the Edible Garden. Our next session will be on December 7th from 10.00-12.00 with a festive craft focus, making decorations from natural materials found in gardens. More details will follow soon but keep the date free to join us if you can.

Help! We are very short of gardening tools and any donations (new or old) would be gratefully received and put to good use. Forks, spades, secateurs, rakes, gardening gloves or any wheelbarrows would be fantastic! Please drop off anything you can offer at the school office – many thanks.

Do remember that we post pictures of school events under the 'Latest News' tab on our school website home page – take a look at some of the photos you can find here.

In response to parent/carer demand, we extended our After-School Club (ASC) offer in April and created an additional 30 space Early Years ASC. This was designed to meet the demand of early years parents/carers for places at ASC and also to then, in turn, take pressure off the demand for places for the rest of the ASC facility. Having budgeted for this with staffing and resourcing for the financial year, we now have only a 50% uptake of the places available in the Early Years facility. Please do contact Ana or Erika if you wish to book any days at ASC for your child – email extendedschools@rockmount.croydon.sch.uk

We appreciate that dogs are an important part of family life for many in our school community. However, as we cannot guarantee that all dogs will be fully under control and because the school's insurance does not cover incidents involving other people's animals, dogs are not permitted on school premises at drop-off and collection times. We kindly ask parents and carers to adhere to this expectation. Please also ensure dogs are not left unattended or tied up at the school gates, as our priority must always be the safeguarding of children and staff. Thank you for your understanding and support in keeping our school safe for everyone.

Our Year 6 leaders have worked incredibly hard already this half term, championing two important charity initiatives: the Poppy Appeal and Children in Need. Through these activities, pupils have learned the value of empathy, teamwork and making a positive difference in their community. In addition, our School Council helped raise awareness for Anti-Bullying Week by leading our Odd Socks Day campaign, reinforcing the importance of respect and celebrating individuality. We are proud of their efforts and grateful to our families for joining in and making these events such a success.

Lost property seems to have become more of an issue in school lately. We have labelled boxes for all of the lost property located at the top of the steps from the lower playground area. We do go through the items and return them to the children when they are named so please make sure that all uniform, jackets, coats, hats, scarves etc are labelled with your child's name to help us in keeping this under control. It is quite shocking to see how many items have been added to the boxes over the past few weeks.

The RFC (Rockmount Friends and Community) are very busy planning ahead for the Winter Fair on Friday 5th December. Separate letters are being sent out about this so please do offer your help wherever possible. We are aware that the festive season will be upon us very quickly and you will have received notification of a non-uniform day planned for Friday 28th November in exchange for any donations of bottles, toiletries, games etc to support the Winter Fair.

With some of our school events starting early in December, we thought you may welcome a breakdown of the dates which are already published on the calendar on the school website:

| Date | Event |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 2 nd December | Year 3 Stone Age Day Year 4 Crystal and Quartz Outdoor Learning |
| Wednesday 3 rd December | Year 5 pupils to Croydon Schools Music concert Croydon |
| Friday 5 th December | Winter Fair 3.00-5.30 |
| Sunday 7 th December | Community Club in the garden – seasonal crafts and decoration making |
| Monday 8 th December | Nursery Concerts – 10.30 and 2.45 |
| Tuesday 9 th December | Year 1 Emerald and Garnet Outdoor Learning Christmas Lunch |
| Wednesday 10 th December | Reception Christmas Concert 2.15 |
| Thursday 11 th December | Year 6 visiting author – Rob Lloyd Jones Year 1 Christmas Concert 2.15 |
| Friday 12 th December | Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Concert 9.15 Year 6 Tower of London trip Year 5 Outdoor Learning |
| Tuesday 16 th December | Year 2 Nativity performance 9.30 Year 2 Nativity performance 2.00 |
| Wednesday 17 th December | Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Concert 2.30 |
| Thursday 18 th December | Christmas Party Day |
| Friday 19 th December | Last day of term – school closes at 1.30 (children collected from usual points at 1.30) |

Have a lovely weekend,

Helen Carvall