Dear parents/carers,

This is the last newsletter of 2014! I will not be sending out a newsletter next Friday as we will be finishing early. Please read the information below carefully so you know what is happening in the busy final week.

The term has flown by. We have had such a successful term of learning and a lot of great fun along the way. I wish you all a very restful holiday and a very happy Christmas to those families who celebrate. This is what we have been up to:

**Trips and Events**
- I really enjoyed a trip to Kidsmania with year 5 on Monday. This was their prize for winning best attendance last year. They all had a fantastic although exhausting time!
- Year 3 had their family assembly on Wednesday and did a shadow puppet play of Daedalus and Icarus. They have been learning all about light and shadows. It was a great show. Thanks to the parents who came to watch.
- Year 1 went to the Geffrye Museum to learn about houses long ago. They had a wonderful time and were so well behaved.
- Year 6 had a road safety workshop.
- Year 1 and the reception class enjoyed a show of Jack and the Beanstalk at school.

**Good Learning**
- Year 1 have been learning to write non-fiction texts. Sara, Cathy, Khalid, Aman, Mikael and Noa shared their writing of different parts of non-fictions texts. They also told us about their trip to the Geffrye Museum and how houses were different in the past.
- Year 2 have been learning all about the Great Fire of London. Eleni, Ayaan, Sebastian, Toyosi, Zudeyna and Izyan read out their information leaflets about the fire and showed us wonderful oil pastels of the fire.
- Year 3 have been learning about festivals of light in RE. Sumaiya, Tamim, Jumayna, Kanta and Ali told us about Diwali and Hanukah. They told us how light is symbolic in many religions.
- Year 4 have been learning all about Morse code. Tasnim, Nasuha, Yasir, Yehiya, Amira and Walid showed us how to write their names using dots and dashes. Morse code is used to send messages.
- Year 5 have been reading the book ‘A Christmas Carol’ by Charles Dickens. Tulsi and Shan read out their very descriptive openings to the story – they were so evocative!
- Year 6 have been learning all about ratio and proportion. Inaya, Siham, Ishraat, Hafsa, Afsana, Zahir, Naiem and Tehzeeb told us how they had put this into practice by making fruit cocktails! What a great way to learn!

**Special Mention**
I mentioned all of year 1 for their excellent behaviour on the trip to the Geffrye Museum, Abidur mentioned Riyad, Eusha, Walid, Jakir, Sadan and Huzaifa because whenever he is lonely they play with him and Riyad always makes him laugh when he is sad (in fact makes him laugh his socks off!), Mehdi mentioned Chris for helping him with his learning and Sofia mentioned the whole school including the teachers for the learning in anti-bullying week.

**Clubs**
There are no clubs next week, clubs start again W/c 12th January 2015. Children will be informed next Tuesday, 16th December if they have a place in a club.

www.virginia.towerhamlets.sch.uk
FSU News
The tigers came up to the year 3 family assembly and really enjoyed it. They watched and listened and were a great audience. Chris said they had a good discussion about shadow puppets in class afterwards. I enjoyed listening and watching all of FSU perform their Christmas song with Mercedes. You are in for a treat at next week’s assembly!

Assemblies
The children will be telling the story of the first Christmas and singing songs at our nativity assembly on Thursday 18th December. All welcome. If you wish to come, please make sure that you are here at 9.15. It will be very busy and our hall has limited space so please do not bring older siblings if they have broken up or other relatives. Thank you for your understanding.
On Friday 19th December, we will have our attendance and achievement assembly at 9.05. All welcome although with the above limitations!

Christmas Parties and Christmas Lunch
Christmas parties are on Thursday 18th of December beginning at 2.00. We have sent a letter out with the details. Any questions, please ask Joan or Shelly.
Christmas lunch for staff and children is on Friday 19th December. It will be a non-uniform day but please make sure the children have sensible shoes. We will finish at 2.00pm that day.

Return to School
The children begin school again on Tuesday 6th January at the usual time of 8.55. Any family taking extended holidays and not returning at this time will be referred to the attendance and welfare adviser and issued with a penalty notice in accordance with Tower Hamlets policy. It is difficult for children to catch up with learning when they miss school and it is very unsettling for them.

SkoolBo
Children at Virginia use a website called Skoolbo to help them with their learning in Maths and English. Children have different challenges which they complete. Below are the scores that different classes have achieved. Well done everyone!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>Number of pupils late</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>91.72%</td>
<td>6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>98.62%</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>94.67%</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>95.33%</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>97.14%</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Well done year 6, I am very proud of your attendance!
Parents - please make sure your child is lined up in the playground at 8.55am, so that they are in lessons and ready to start their learning.
Swimming for female parents / carers
We have six places available for swimming which will begin Wednesday 14th January and will run for 10 weeks. If you are interested in a place please speak with Joan

Forthcoming events
16th December – Year 6 visiting the Imperial War Museum
18th December – Year 3 visiting Little Angel Theatre
18th December – Christmas Nativity Assembly @ 9.15am.
18th December – Christmas Parties @ 2.30pm,
19th December – Christmas Lunch

Dates for the rest of this Year
22nd December to 2nd January 2015  End of term  School Closed
5th January 2015  Inset Day  School Closed
16th February to 20th February 2015  Half term  School Closed
30th March to 10th April 2015  End of term  School Closed
25th May to 29th May 2015  Half term  School Closed
20th July 2015  Summer Holiday  School Closed to children

3rd September 2015  New academic year  School Open to children

Have a lovely holiday,
Best wishes,

Kate Gooding, head teacher.