



9 December 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

As Christmas approaches, I would like to let you know about our arrangements for the end of term.

On Thursday this week (12th December) we are providing Christmas lunch for St Paul's Junior School, which means there will be a reduced menu at lunchtime for our students – there will be hot turkey rolls and a vegetarian alternative, as well as jacket potatoes with a range of fillings and the usual selection from the salad/sandwich bar.

Our Christmas concert is on the evening of Wednesday 18th December and marks the beginning of Christmas at Whitstone. Tickets for the concert are free, but availability is limited so you will need to get tickets in advance. They are available from student reception or by phoning the school office. The concert starts at 7pm and will finish at about 8.15pm. Please join us at 6.30pm for drinks and mince pies.

Our Christmas lunch is on Thursday 19th December. This has become one of our loveliest traditions. Lunch will be provided free of charge to all our students and staff. Students will be able to choose from a traditional turkey dinner or roasted vegetable & feta parcels with all the trimmings. Please note that there will be very little available at break on that day; the Dining Room will only be selling crisps or fruit, so you may like to send your child in with a mid-morning snack!

As always at this time of year, we are raising money for the Shepton Mallet Salvation Army Christmas appeal. Tutor groups are collecting 'treats' to go into Christmas food boxes and there will be a collection at the concert. Please do your best to support the Christmas food boxes; we have close to 100 identified families in Shepton Mallet who through no fault of their own are struggling to make ends meet; we would really like to help them enjoy Christmas.

School finishes at 2pm on Friday 20th December and the buses have been booked for that time. The new term starts on Monday 6th January 2020.

The end of this term also marks the end of my time at Whitstone School. After more than nine years as Headteacher, I would like to thank you for your support of the school and of the staff at Whitstone School. My successor, Mr Swallow, takes over a lovely school. Our young people are some of the best I have had the privilege to work with over my 33 year career in education; as parents and carers you should be very proud.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas Concert and to celebrating with the students at our Christmas lunch on Thursday 19th.

Best wishes

Gill Rennard
Headteacher