A very belated happy new year!
And what a year it is going to be for both the school and the children’s centre. In the school we have lots of exciting projects and events planned, including welcoming the new reception class, the launch of ‘Read, Write, Inc.’, revamping the library and developing the children’s outside learning. While the children’s centre has been asked by the LA to support Stroud Green Children’s Centre over the next year.

SCHOOL

‘Read, Write, Inc.’
All staff were trained to deliver the programme on the first two days of this term. The programme is aimed at developing children’s phonic knowledge, reading and writing skills. It is being used by many schools, both in London and across the country, and the success rate is high. We felt a more structured approach to literacy learning was needed and staff were impressed by the ‘Read, Write, Inc.’ approach. It is early days but so far the children seem to be enjoying it.

You are invited to information sessions later this term, (please see the dates section). This will be an opportunity for you to ask questions about the programme and to find out how you can support it at home.

‘Bulge Class’ and Buildings
During the Christmas holiday the new reception class was set-up, the decking extended, the playground sheds demolished and a new one built and new cupboards were built in the hall and corridor.

In addition the roof leak in the library and Red Class has been fixed, the staffroom was relocated to the first floor and a new group work/staff workroom set-up.

All of the above improvements have been funded by the LA in recognition of our decision to take a ‘bulge class.’

The new children started to settle-in last week. Both they and their families are extremely happy to have a school to go to at last!

I would like to thank Helen and Angela in particular for all their hard work over the last few months in getting the new classroom up and running.

Curriculum information meetings for new reception parents have been organised, (please see the dates section).

Lunchtimes
Due to additional numbers for lunch we have decided to have lunch in the hall. The extra
space allows us to continue having only two sittings, which has supported improved behavior, both inside and outside. The acoustics in the hall are also better, making for a much calmer lunchtime experience for all.

We have employed a new lunchtime supervisor, Courtney, who is supporting Red Class, and in the next few weeks Abdelkader will also be joining us.

Lunchtime has also been reduced by 10 minutes. Staff felt this part of the day was too long for the children and the length, combined with little for the children to do, had a negative impact on behaviour.

The decking is now being used by the children, with different classes taking turns daily. The space is being set up with quieter activities and more active games are being planned for the rest of the playground.

**School Council/Library**
This term the School Council will be asking all the children how they would like to see the library developed. They will also be thinking about fund-raising activities for the new library.

**‘Reading and Writing Week’**
We had planned to have a ‘Reading Week’ at the end of this half-term and a ‘Writing Week’ during the summer term - you may have already seen the dates. The idea behind these weeks is to have lots of activities promoting literacy. However, we have decided to combine the weeks and organise something after Easter. Please look out for more information coming soon.

**Governing Body**
After the elections at the end of last term a new Parent Governor was elected, Madeleine Rogers. We are all looking forward to working with her over the months to come.

Later this term the first edition of an annual Governing Body newsletter will be coming out. Please look out for it in reception and in book bags.

**Staffing**
Marcus has joined us as a Teaching Assistant in Purple Class. Helen and Angela are back in reception, (Active Ants Class). Rebecca and Dinah (back from maternity leave), are job sharing in Lively Ladybirds Class and Precious has joined the nursery team. (Next week a staff photo page will be going out to all parents).

**Christmas Concert DVD**
It is finally here! If you would like a copy please order one by leaving your name with reception. They are selling for £3.00 each.

**Important Reminders/Information**

**INSET Days**
The training day next half-term has been cancelled to allow for the two days taken for Read, Write, Inc. training at the beginning of this term. The next and last INSET day for this academic year is on Friday 29 June, (please see attached dates).

**Attendance**
This is always an area for improvement. Please remember to phone the office before the school day begins if your child is unwell. All unauthorised absences will be followed up and, in some cases, when there are repeated absences, referrals will be made to the Educational Welfare Officer.

Can you please make sure children are brought to school and picked up on time. Lateness at both ends of the day is very disruptive for everyone, not least the children.

**THE ALLEYWAY AND THE RAILINGS**
We have recently had quite a few incidents of parents passing things through the railings to their children at lunchtimes and also standing talking to them. We dis-
courage the children talking to anyone in the alleyway at playtimes for obvious reasons so doing this gives the children mixed messages.

If you need to drop something off for your child please leave the item at reception and staff will make sure that your child's teacher gets it.

ZIG ZAGS
Please do not park on the zig zags outside school when dropping-off or picking-up. They are there to make it safer for the children! You will be challenged if you do.

Reception Drop-off and pick-up
After half-term please drop-off and pick-up reception children from the inside doors. We are going to be setting-up the outside space before school starts and don’t want the resources and activities disturbed. Also, if you are using the playground with your children before school starts please do not let them on the decking.

CHILDREN’S CENTRE

Children’s Centre Update
The Ladder Children’s Centres is back after a period of change which has affected staff and services in all centres across Haringey. Thank you all very much for your continued support during this time.

We would like to welcome new staff to the Centre. Sam Green is the Information and Administration Officer. She will be working on reception, welcoming all families to the school, nursery and groups. Sam is able to provide you with information, advice and guidance about services in the local area.

Cigdem Yakut is the Community Development Outreach Worker who will be working with families groups and the community. She has a wealth of experience and has worked with families across Haringey. I hope you will join us in welcoming both of them to the team at the Ladder.

We have a new timetable, (attached). We have tried to continue with some of your favourite groups like e.g. Stay and Messy Play and Movers and Groovers.

Our partners are still offering services e.g. housing advice, benefit and debt advice to all families. Please come in and see us.

Stroud Green Children Centre
As part of the changes we will be working closely with Stroud Green Children’s Centre. The centre is currently running a childminders group, Stay and Play and antenatal service. We are looking at developing other groups with the support of local families.

Suzanne Michaelides is now the Information and Administration Officer in the Centre and we will be recruiting a Community Development Outreach Worker for the groups very soon.

Come and Learn English
FREE English course: if you have a child 5 years and under come and learn English with us every Monday 9.15 – 12.00pm, (Haringey Adult Learning Service is providing these classes for parents with a crèche).

Housing Problem?
Come and get free housing advice and support from HART’s every Monday 9.00 – 5.00pm at The Ladder Children’s Centre.
Do you need help with debt and benefits?
Citizens Advice Bureau FREE advice every
Wednesday 9.30 – 12.30pm at the The Ladder
Children’s Centre.

2012 DATES

07/02 3.45pm Nursery meeting
09/02 3.30pm Cake Sale

13-18/02 Half Term Holiday

20/02 Spring 2 First Day
21/02 9.30am & 6pm Active Ants Curriculum Meeting
22/02 9.15-10.15am Read Write Inc Information session for parents. Repeated at 9-7pm
12/03 1-3pm Year 2 Parent Interviews
13/03 1-3pm Reception Parent Interviews
14/03 1-3pm Year 1 Parent Interviews
15/03 4-5:30pm Parents Interviews
16/03 Nursery Parents Interviews
29/03 3.30-5.00pm Disco
30/03 Spring 2 Last Day

02-13/04 Holiday

16/04 Summer 1 First Day
26/04 National Child Measurement Programme
1/06 Summer 1 Last Day

04-08/6 Half Term Holidays

11/06 Summer 2 First Day
15/06 Nursery Registration Day
23/06 Summer Fair in Infant Playground

29/06 Inset Day

02/07 1-4pm Year 2 Parents Interviews
03/07 1-4pm Reception Parents Interviews
04/07 1-4pm Year 1 Parents Interviews
05/07 4-5:30pm Parents Interviews
06/07 Nursery Parents Interviews
11/07 2-3pm Summer Concert
12/07 9:30-10:30 Summer Concert
23/07 Summer 2 Last Day

24/07 Holiday