



# International School of Madrid

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# JANUARY

## Thank You

Many thanks, on behalf of all the staff, for the Christmas gifts that you gave to us – your kindness is very much appreciated. But even more importantly, a huge thank you for your generosity in donating toys, clothes, food and other items for the poor. The following is an extract from the thank you letter sent by Father Ron:

We all know that the economic crisis in Spain has been devastating for many people, especially the poor and the immigrant. I would like to extend my gratitude for your generosity in donating Christmas items to help the needy. This year, we have given the majority of the toys to the “Comunidad Nazaret” in San Blas as they have come to depend upon them. Some of the toys have been put aside for the single parent families and for the poor immigrant children of Our Lady of Mercy. The food will be given to our African parishioners, some of them have been out of work for more than three years now. This year we have also shared some food with the Caritas of our sister parish: Santa María Magdalena.

Please relay to the student body our heartfelt gratitude and let them know that they truly make a difference.

May God bless you and reward you for your kindness.

## Lost Property Week

During the first week of the new term we are going to have a crackdown on ‘lost property’. You can support us by:

- Ensuring that ALL children’s clothes are clearly marked with the child’s full name;
- Checking that children have all of their things before leaving at the end of the day;
- Returning items that do not belong to your child as soon as possible.

During the week Mr Cook will be monitoring lost property very closely to determine which class is best at looking after their things. The children in that class will be rewarded.

## Swimming

During the Spring term **Year 6** will go swimming on **Tuesday** mornings. Year 5 will not go Swimming this term, instead they will have an additional Sports lesson at the Pradillo sports centre.

**Year 4** will go swimming each **Friday** morning, beginning on 13<sup>th</sup> January. Year 3 will not go Swimming this term, instead they will have an additional sports or music lesson on Friday mornings and so should still come to school in their track suit.

## Team Days & Colour Shows

For pupils in **Key Stage Two** the annual team days and colour shows are fast approaching. As you already know, the children from Year 3 to Year 6 are in house groups – the Reds, the Blues, the Greens and the Yellows. Once a year they all have a day of celebration when they put on a variety show for the rest of the school.

The dates of the team days and colour shows are:

Greens – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Blues – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January

Yellows – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

Reds – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

On your child's team day they should come to school dressed in their team colour. They may also need a costume or props for the show. They will have a special menu for lunch including pizza and ice cream. They will not attend swimming class during the week of their show as they will be rehearsing instead.

## Class Assemblies

During the Spring term pupils in **Foundation Stage** and **Key Stage One** perform 'class assemblies' for the other children to watch. Once again we are inviting parents to come and watch the performances. However, please note that as we have very limited space, we ask that only **ONE** guest per child to come to the assembly.

The first assemblies, that will take place on Thursdays at 9:00am in the Hall, are:

26<sup>th</sup> January – Year 20

2<sup>nd</sup> February – Year 2M

9<sup>th</sup> February – Year 1L

1<sup>st</sup> March – Year 1T

## Staff Changes

Since the beginning of December, Miss Claire Gurney has been teaching alongside Mrs Howland in Year 4H. Mrs Howland is currently receiving medical treatment and so cannot attend school every day.

Mr Robert Caufield will join the school in January to replace Mr Stewart as form teacher of Year 3S and as leader of the after school computer club. Mr Stewart has returned to Scotland for family reasons.

I hope that you will make both feel very welcome.