



*Happy Christmas!*



*The staff at Stormont House School would like to wish all Pupils, Parents and Carers a Happy and Peaceful Christmas. Pupils return to school after the Christmas holiday on Monday 7 January 2013 See you all in The New Year!*

## *Christmas Carol Service*

*Our Christmas Carol Service was held this morning. Christmas Carols such as Silent Night, Little Donkey plus many more were Parents/carers that attend commented on how well they enjoyed it.*

## **Christmas Variety Club River Cruise**

On Tuesday 4 December Year 7 were invited by the Variety Club of Great Britain to take part in the annual Christmas River Boat Cruise. They joined 3 other schools on the Golden Flame river cruiser which took them from Tower Quay, Victoria Embankment down to North Greenwich, where they were able to see the O2 centre. The pupils were treated to a fun filled journey which included playing games, face painting and a visit from Santa Claus. The Variety club provided a gift for every child on board.



Year 7 pupils on-board the Golden Flame River Cruiser



## **Attendance/Punctuality: Be on time for Learning**

Every pupil should attend school regularly. We are pleased to see that for the first part of half term 71 pupils had more than 95% attendance, with 43 pupils having a 100% attendance record. Well done to those pupils, let's see if we can get that figure higher for the next half term. Morning registration is at 8.55am and the school is open to all pupils from 8.30am for breakfast if they wish. If for any reason your child is absent please remember to inform the school. You can leave a message on the school answerphone or call the office at 8am. Any **urgent** medical appointments made during school hours can only be authorised by a medical card showing the date and time. Please ensure these are given in at the office.

## Are you on Benefits? Don't Bury Your Head in the Sand.

The government is making major changes to the benefits system and you may get **LESS MONEY** from April 2013.

### Does this affect me?

The main change is the government "capping" the amount of money a family can get from benefits to a maximum of £500 a week. This includes your housing benefit and just about everything else. (There are a few exceptions). Phone the DWP helpline on 0845 605 7064 for more information

### What do you need to do?

- People on Working Tax Credit are not affected by the benefit cap. So, increase the hours you work to at least 16 hours a week for lone parents and 24 hours a week for couples (with one partner working at least 16 hours). Then you are likely to be able to get Working Tax Credit.
- If you have a high rent, you might want to negotiate with your landlord to bring it down. Hackney's Benefits Rent Shortfall Team may be able to help with this call 0208 356 3923 or 0208 356 2449 to arrange an appointment

### Who can help you find work?

- Your Job Centre plus Advisor.

Or Hackney Council's Ways into Work may be able to help. It is free and offers a range of advice and support. Call 0208 356 5700, or email [waysintowork@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:waysintowork@hackney.gov.uk)



## *Stormont House School Christmas Lunch*



*Yesterday we sat down to our Christmas Lunch with our Mentors from Williams Lea and our School Governors.*



### Term Dates

Thursday 20 December 2012  
Monday 7 January 2013  
Friday 15 February 2013  
Monday 18 - Friday 22 February 2013

School closes for Christmas Holidays at 1.15pm  
Spring term begins pupils return to school  
Staff Training Day (School closed to all pupils)  
School closed for half term

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