



DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2016. Where did the year go?!

As always, this is a busy time of year with our Christmas Fair, pantomime, parties etc. However, there is no escape from the three 'Rs' and we will continue to work on aspects of our School Improvement Plan. Alongside Higher Order Thinking Skills, which were mentioned in our last newsletter, we are working to develop skills in cooperative learning. Through this approach we are providing our learners with the opportunity to think and talk together, to discuss ideas, question, analyse and solve problems, without the constant support of a teacher. For more information on this approach, please click on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/HEh8ZOsbIRE>

You will have another opportunity to meet with your child/ren's teacher/s in January. Further information will come out nearer the time.



HOLIDAYS

The school closes at the usual time on Thursday 22nd December and re-opens, for all, at the usual time on Monday 9th January 2017.



PARENT COUNCIL



Unfortunately, the September meeting of the council failed to appoint a chair. If you would be interested on taking on this role, or just being part of the

council, please come along to the next meeting which takes place in the Drama Room at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 18th January.

All parents/carers are welcome to attend



CHRISTMAS FAIR



Along with the PTA (please see attached newsletter), we would like to invite you to a Christmas Fair on Friday 16th December. Come along and get your Christmas gifts all wrapped up.

Enjoy a cuppa and a mince pie whilst

the pupils perform festive songs and then take some time to browse the stalls when your child goes back to their class.

Doors open at 9.30am; however, to ensure that there is enough room in the hall for everyone to enjoy the event, we would ask that you time your visit to match your child's performance.

9.45am - P4 performing Christmas songs

10.15am - P5 performing Christmas songs

10.45am - P6 performing Christmas songs

11.00am - woodwind group

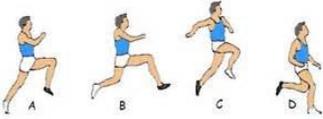
11.15am - school orchestra

11.30am - P7 performing Christmas songs

12.00 - Hamper raffle

We look forward to seeing you on the 16th.

SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS



East Lothian's Sportshall Athletics competition took place on Wednesday the 23rd of November.

At this event we, along with 7 other schools, competed for a place in the Lothian Regional Finals, which take place in February.

It was an amazing competition and, as always, the standard was high. We had many seconds, a few thirds and at least two firsts which placed us second overall. We are very excited as we will now be able to take a larger team to represent East Lothian in the regionals next year! Well done to all those who took part, your performance and sportsmanship was amazing!



CHRISTMAS PARTIES



Parties will take place on the last week of term. We would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to the PTA, which has covered the cost food and prizes. The PTA has also very kindly covered the cost of

our pantomime, Cinderella.

P5 - Morning of Wednesday 21st

P6 - Afternoon of Wednesday 21st

P7 - Morning of Thursday 22nd

P4 - Afternoon of Thursday 22nd



CHILDREN IN NEED



Thank you very much to all those who wore something spotty and also donated to the bake sale. The sum of £465.29 was raised.



MEDICAL FORMS

Before medication can be administered to pupils during the school day, parents/carers require to

complete either a Med 1 or Med 2 form. These are available from the school office or our website.



BOOK FAIR



The school book fair proved to be a great success and we would like to thank all of the parent helpers who supported us. £1542.84 worth of books was sold which means that, with 60% commission, we have £925.70 to spend on reading resources. Well done and thank you to all parents/carers and pupils for their support.



CHILDREN'S ABSENCE



Should your child be off sick, or absent for any reason, please inform the school office by telephone, preferably between **8.30am and 9.15am**. Failure to inform us of your child's absence will initiate a text/phone call to you so that we can check on your child's safety. Upon return to school, your child should bring a letter explaining their absence and showing the dates on which this occurred.

Planned absence eg holidays, should be requested as far in advance as possible, preferably two weeks before.



FRIDAY CLUBS

Our next round of clubs starts on the 15th of January and runs for 8 weeks. As always, if you are available to help we would be delighted to see you. The Tutorial Room is available for parents to meet, have a coffee and a chat before or after Friday Clubs.



GIFT IDEAS



Should you be considering a present for your child's teacher, we would like to suggest that instead of buying a gift you could, for example, spend £10 would buy

textbooks, which could help a child out of poverty. £7 would buy the gift of a football that can help children forget the harsh realities of living in the midst of conflict, disaster or extreme poverty, even if it's just for 90 minutes. It can give them back a sense of normality.

Although teachers appreciate presents at Christmas we know they would be touched by receiving a present that could be used by children who are in need. If you are interested in this idea here are a few links to look at -

www.oxfamunwrapped.com

<http://shop.savethechildren.org.uk/wishlist-landing/>

<https://www.presentaid.org/theme/how-far-will-your-gifts-go-christmas>

<https://donate.unhcr.org/qb-en/general/>

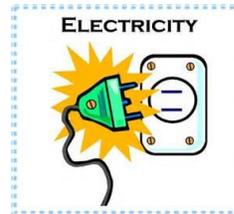


DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Friday 9th: Last Friday Club of the term.
- Wednesday 14th: Christmas lunch
- Friday 16th: Christmas Fayre
- Tuesday 20th: Pantomime - Cinderella
- Wednesday 21st: AM - P5 Christmas party
PM - P6 Christmas party
- Thursday 22nd: Special Assembly - invited parents/carers only.
- Thursday 22nd: AM - P7 Christmas party
PM - P4 Christmas party
- **Thursday 22nd: School closes**
- **Monday 9th January 2017: School re-opens**
- Wednesday 11th: P7 dental inspections
- Friday 20th: Friday Club (1 of 8)
- Tuesday 24th: 4-7pm Parent/Carers' meeting
- Wednesday 25th: 4-7pm Parent/Carers' meeting
- Friday 27th: Friday Club (2 of 8)

AROUND THE CLASSES

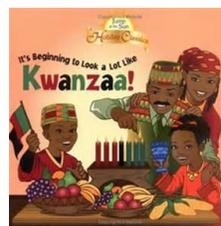


P4A have been working hard recently on their electricity topic. We have looked at the history of electricity as well as designing electricity safety posters. We have also built circuits and tested the insulating

and conducting properties of different materials. We are looking forward to a visit from Torness Power Station to discover how electricity is generated and travels to our homes.

Earlier in the month, we visited Dirleton Castle to end our Magic Castle project. We wrote a diary entry of our visit and it was interesting to see what an impact the castle latrine had had on the children. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from 3 owls, which the children got to stroke and see fly over their heads. There are some great photos and a video of this on the class web page so please log on and have a look.

In maths, we are working hard to learn multiplication tables. Every child has their own times table challenge card. They can receive reward stickers for each times table they learn. A few stickers have already been won and I am hoping to see many more awarded in the weeks ahead. We will also be looking at money and linking this in with our Christmas enterprise project. We will be using our money skills and knowledge to work out how much profit (or loss) each business has made.



P4B are currently working on a science based topic with a focus on electricity and forces. We have completed a variety of experiments to investigate the effect that friction has on a toy car, explore how electricity flows in a circuit

and to discover different materials that insulate and conduct electricity. As part of this topic we have also written science reports based on our experiments, using the correct layout and appropriate scientific language.

Our next IDL topic will be an enterprise project where the children will be using a cooperative learning approach to create and run a business. Each business will develop and make a product to sell at the Christmas Fair on Friday 16th December. As part of the process, the children will learn about persuasive

language and make posters to advertise their products. In class maths, we will be learning about money; beginning with calculating change from £5, £10 or £20, investigating the range of coins and notes that can be used to pay for things. Each enterprise business will be asked to manage a small budget throughout the project.

In RME, we are learning about winter festivals that are celebrated by different world religions. The class have decided that they would like to learn about the Hindu festival of Diwali, the festival of Kwanzaa which is celebrated in Africa, the Jewish festival of Hanukkah and the Christmas story.

We had a wonderful visit to Dirleton Castle and were given a guided tour by Andrew, the knight, who told us lots of interesting facts and exciting stories about the history of the castle. The children were then given a short time to explore the castle in small groups. A massive thank you to Mrs Ash who came to help on the trip! The following day, P4 had a visit from Falconry Scotland who brought a Tawny Owl, Barn Owl and Little Owl to visit us in school. We got to feel how soft their feathers are and see them flying across the Drama Room. I particularly enjoyed the unexpected surprise of having the Barn Owl fly and land on my shoulder!



P4C have had an incredibly busy couple of months, including a visit from Falconry Scotland to teach us all about birds of prey and a successful trip to Dirleton Castle to mark the end of our Magic Castle topic.

Our electricity topic has allowed us opportunities to build simple circuits, test materials as insulators and conductors and research safety concerns surrounding the use of electricity in our homes and community. We are yet to look at magnets but we have had some fascinating discussions about the inside of atoms!

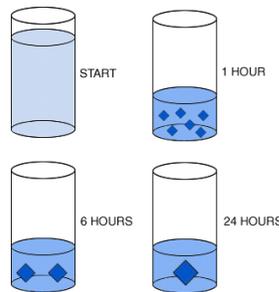
Our next topic sees us take on Alan Sugar in the enterprise stakes as we design, plan and create fantastic products to sell at our Christmas Fair on Friday 16th December. Alongside this exciting venture, we are learning to sing three classic Christmas songs from the 80s. We plan to perform to our visitors while they peruse our first class produce. I wonder if you can guess what we may sing.

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Mr Connell has followed an electrical theme during our specialist art time and has led and supported us in creating the most amazing "moth to a light bulb" coloured pencil and oil pastel drawings - the standard of this work is extremely high!

In January, we proceed with another science led topic called "Adapting to the Cold" and we will conduct experiments and focus on reading for information. I won't say too much more just yet - it really is a fantastic project and many of the activities are best left a surprise!

I am very grateful for all the support you have shown the class and I this term - thank you! Have a fantastic Christmas and New Year break and I hope to see you all healthy and hearty in 2017. Best wishes, D Guy



P5A have been learning about water, including how to conserve it and the journey of a river. The class has undertaken a number of experiments involving condensation and evaporation, after which the children wrote up very

informative science reports. A big thank you for the support you have given the children in completing their homework tasks. We have some very detailed models of the water cycle. We are now going on to look at rivers around the world, flooding and the effects of global warming.

We would like to say thank you and farewell to Ms Hadden, who has been working with us for the last five weeks.



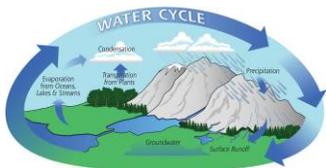
P5B has had a busy term! We decided to link our water topic with finding out about the River Tyne. Our first task was arranging a visit to the river. We had to consider our 'outdoor journey' by looking at maps and deciding the safest route to the Stevenson

(White) Bridge from our school. Once that was decided we took time to consider all the possible hazards and what we could do to minimise any problems. We thought really hard about this and our list included risks such as crossing the road, being

near the water and even nettle stings. There was advice on how to deal with each risk (taking the register, plasters, staying away from the water). On the day of the visit we met Jen, the Countryside Ranger, who told us about the geography of the Tyne. We had already followed its journey on a map and it was interesting to find out more. We also learned some stories about the history of the river and even had time to find out about the trees that line the path. It was fun trying to measure the height of the trees! We created some 'leaf flowers' (see the photo!) The river visit is also part of our work for the John Muir Award. We will be continuing work on this throughout P5.

Back in school we have been learning about water. Did you know we are using the same water that was around in the time of the dinosaurs? Ask us about the water cycle and some of our science work! We have had fun making 'rain' which fell on the 'island'. We have also been experimenting with ways to make dirty water cleaner. The sand and gravel filter was most successful.

We have been to the Corn Exchange this week to try table tennis. Pete showed us how to hold the bat properly and we played some fun games. You can see photos of this on our web page



P5C have been working hard learning about Water. We have learned the processes involved in The Water Cycle and about the treatments

and cleaning involved in supplying us with clean drinking water. The homework tasks have been completed to a high standard and the children have enjoyed showing off their work.

Our focus in Numeracy has been multiplication and division. The class have, in their groups, been practising their times tables and division facts. You can never practise enough though! So please, continue to work at home so that your child can recall their tables quickly.

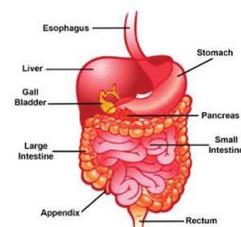
We had a visit from our specialist drama teacher - her lesson was to teach the class about John Muir's early life. She had the children imagining what John's life would have been like, and the class had an amazing time.

Has your child been sending emails? Well they should be, because every child now has his/her own

<http://www.edubuzz.org/kingsmeadow/>

email address. We have been learning how to send and receive emails and how to send and open attachments. The class have enjoyed their Table Tennis taster sessions at The Corn Exchange and should have come home with a card detailing the times of after school clubs in Haddington.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year.



P6A have been learning about body systems over the past few weeks. We have learned about the nervous system, the digestive system and the skeletal system. We have been learning how to take notes from videos

and non-fiction books. These notes helped us to create leaflets and reports to show what we have learned. In the next couple of weeks we will also be learning about the circulatory system and the respiratory systems.

Across P6 we have been undertaking a mini research project about Scottish inventions. We have been working cooperatively within groups to read information from non-fiction sources, take notes and create scripts. We will be sharing our learning by hosting our own talk show and interviewing our guest inventors.

In the run up to Christmas, we have started learning songs to sing at the Christmas fair. We are also going to be starting an enterprise project. We will work cooperatively with our table teams to design, create and sell products for the winter fair.

After Christmas, our new topic will be the Victorians. We will be learning out life in Victorian times and comparing and contrasting that with the society that we live in today. We will also be writing a biography about a famous Victorian.

In numeracy, we will learn to work with about decimal numbers. In maths we will be learning about algebra.



P6B have been enjoying learning about different body systems. So far, we have created a model of how the digestive system works and taken part in a range of experiments and activities to explore the skeletal, circulatory and respiratory systems. As we move into the Christmas term, the children will be working in their co-operative learning teams on an

enterprise project. They will have to research, design and create a product to be sold at the Christmas Fair and determine whether they can make a profit. Following our Christmas break, in January we plan to learn about the Victorians with an interdisciplinary focus. We hope to learn about the Victorians' way of life and compare and contrast it to our own. Our writing activities will also support us in learning about the Victorians as we plan to learn how to write biographies. We are going to develop our reading comprehension skills through our topic. In health and well-being, we are going to explore our needs and wants whilst in numeracy and mathematics we will be investigating decimals and algebra.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48	
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70	77	84	
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96	
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90	99	108	
10	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	
11	11	22	33	44	55	66	77	88	99	110	121	132	
12	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144	

P6C's Mock Court project has now come to an end. Over the course of the project the children developed a variety of skills in teams of pursuers and defenders. Our

pursuers took on a team from St Joseph's, Linlithgow, and, whilst they were ultimately unsuccessful in court, the Sheriff was very impressed by their case and presentation. Our defenders performed very strongly against a team from Clovenstone and were delighted when the Sheriff found in their favour! A huge well done to P6C and big thank you to all the family members who came up to watch the trials take place at Edinburgh Sheriff Court in front of real life Sheriffs and court officials. The project is a worthwhile and unique experience of real life ways of working.

The class has been working very diligently to improve our times table knowledge. Our target is to quickly and accurately recall the times tables 1-10. In class, we have shared successful strategies that we have been using at home such as working with flashcards, being quizzed by family members and singing along to the songs on Mathletics. Our skills and knowledge have been applied in multiplication and division lessons in numeracy and equivalent fractions lessons in maths.

Over the next few weeks, we are looking forward to Christmas crafts and rehearsing for the Christmas celebration amongst other things. We will be forming small businesses in our co-operative learning

groups in order to research, plan, make, sell and evaluate high quality Christmas crafts. We hope to see you all on Friday 16th December.

Turning our thoughts to 2017, we will be exploring decimal fractions in numeracy and algebra in maths. Our topic, the Victorians, will have a social studies and health and wellbeing focus as we work to compare and contrast lives then and now. It will be fascinating to identify similarities as well as differences. Our comprehension work in reading and creation of biographies in writing will be investigated in the same context.



P7A have been studying Democracy and learning about the system of voting and parliament in Scotland. As part of this topic, they are going to write a press

release and speech for a mock election. Who will get the most votes? In addition, we are expecting a visit from our local MSP and some representatives from the Scottish Parliament.

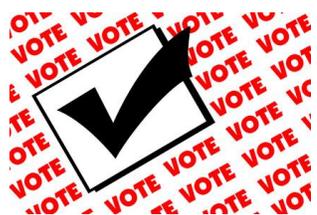
Everyone has worked hard to finish their chosen book for a personal novel study and class work has now started on this. Many children have really made a big effort to improve their AR quiz scores - well done.

Now that Christmas is just around the corner, we are about to start practising Scottish Country dancing in preparation for the Christmas party. Since there are many more boys than girls in the class, everyone will have to learn male and female dance steps. Well, that will be confusing but hopefully good fun! Look out Strictly! We also need to get going with practising songs for the Fair and making crafts to sell.

Update by Ruaraidh and Callum -

We have been doing numerous science experiments including Coke and Mentos, how much sugar you can get in water before it won't dissolve anymore and our personal favourite, how to inflate a balloon with bicarbonate of soda and vinegar!

In PE, we have been trying out four different team games - Sink the Ship, Battleball, Corner Ball and Tag Ball. We then had a class vote to decide which game we wanted to develop. The vote ended with Battleball winning, closely followed by Tag Ball then Corner Ball. The least popular game was Sink the Ship. We are currently making slight changes to the Battleball rules to make it even more fun.



P7B have had a busy term so far and we have lots planned for the next few weeks in the lead up to the Christmas holidays.

We have made a good start to our exciting new topic - Democracy. We have formed ourselves into political parties and we have just finished producing our manifestos. Next we will be working on a press release and an election speech. In the second last week of term, we will be holding a mock election. We will have a polling station set up in the area and each of us will be given a ballot paper on which to cast our vote. Our winning candidate will get to give his or her acceptance speech in front of the whole year group! Also, very excitingly, we are being visited by someone from the Scottish Parliament. They will be telling us all about the parliament and how it works. On the 9th of December, our MSP is also coming in to visit.

We have all been working hard on AR and reading our chosen books for our novel studies. We have now finished reading our books and are planning on using our notes to create a display of knowledge all about it. We will be sharing information about the characters, settings and plot amongst other things.

In P.E., we are working on developing a 'non-traditional' game. Our game is called Battleball. We are enjoying playing it and making amendments to it each week. We are hoping to organise a P7 Battleball tournament in the last week of term.

As part of our Religious and Moral education, we have been studying the life events celebrated by Jewish people and making comparisons to those celebrated in our own lives.

We have been learning about what it means to have a Growth Mindset and have been thinking about how we can change our words to help change our mindset. Ask us about it 😊

In numeracy groups, we have been working hard on the 4 processes- addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and in class maths, we have done a short series of lessons on probability. We are now moving on to 'information handling'. This will tie in well with our Democracy topic.

In the lead up to Christmas, we will be making decorations to sell at the Christmas Fair. We will also be learning Christmas songs to perform on the day.

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P7C's interdisciplinary topic is "Democracy". The children have been learning about what it means to live in a democracy and have been looking closely at the work of the Scottish Parliament. The class

has been divided into the 5 main political parties - Labour, Conservative, SNP, Liberal Democrats and the Green Party. The parties are in the midst of putting together their campaign for our mock election, which will be held on Monday the 12th of December. We also have education officers from the Scottish Parliament coming in to run a workshop with the class on Wednesday the 7th of December and an MSP visiting the year group on Friday the 9th of December. The children are very engaged in the mock election process and the competition is certainly heating up!

In our numeracy groups this term, we are looking at the 4 number processes - addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. In class maths, we have been studying probability and we are just about to move on to look at information handling with the idea that we will be able to present the results of our mock election on graphs, frequency charts etc.

All of the children have now finished their novel study books and will be putting together their novel studies over the next few weeks. This will consist of an author fact file, information on the characters, setting and plot as well as a section giving their opinion and recommendations on the book. I am looking forward to reading the finished products and thank everyone at home for their encouragement in getting the children to finish their novels on time.

Lastly, thank you to the children for all their hard work on our class assembly. It was a great success and was entirely made from their own ideas and hard work.

I hope that you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year when it arrives. Mrs Higgins



P7D have been working hard this term so far. We have been reading our Novel Study books and writing notes in our little blue jotters about characters, setting and chapter summaries. We will use these notes in class to help us with our novel study tasks.

We have finished our mini topic on science where we were investigating how different materials such as sugar and salt dissolve at different rates. The children also explored whether temperature made a difference to how quickly materials dissolve. The class worked extremely hard on writing up their science reports and was really sensible in our classroom science lab.

In class maths, we have finished a block on coordinates and we are now working on probability. In numeracy, we are in our new groups across P7 and we are learning about addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

In topic, we are learning about democracy this term and how it affects us every day. We have learnt about the right to vote and how it all began. In primary 7, we are going to have a mock election where each class is going to vote for a candidate. To prepare for this, children have been working cooperatively in their political parties creating and writing their manifestos. The class will vote for a winning candidate and then, as a year group, will vote for an overall candidate. We have a visitor from Scottish Parliament to inform us how the Scottish Parliament works on the Wednesday 7th December. On the 9th December we have our local MSP coming to visit us.

We are looking forward to Christmas in P7D. Shortly, we will be busy making Christmas crafts for our Christmas Fair.

Merry Christmas



I would like to take this opportunity to wish all staff, pupils, parents and carers a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Seonaid McGillivray

King's Meadow P.T.A.

December News

What fundraising have we done?

Our P4 Hallowe'en Disco held on Tuesday 1st November was a great success and well attended.



The evening consisted of a number of fun party games, plenty dancing, a fancy dress competition with party snacks and drinks to keep our revellers going! The event raised a fantastic **£162.97** and a big thank you is owed to everyone who was involved in the organisation and of course our P4's for putting in a big effort on the costume front!



Merry Christmas

We've also generated an amazing **£474.10** from sales of pupils' 'Cauliflower' Christmas Cards. As ever the standard of artwork was very high, leading to a very personal, quality end product. Thanks are due to all parents who purchased cards, helping raise vital funds for our School.

What are we fundraising for?

The P.T.A. has recently donated £260 to the School to buy materials for pupils' Christmas Fair Enterprise Projects. In addition, the P.T.A. will be buying the School's Christmas Tree, funding the Christmas Panto and paying for the party food, plus prizes, for each year group's Christmas Party!



Upcoming Events

Christmas Fair: Friday 16th December

A key date in the School Calendar! The P.T.A. will be providing refreshments and running a Christmas Hamper raffle. Please hand in your Hamper donations (nut-free and non-alcoholic) to the School Office by Wed 14th December.

We will also be running a Sweet Stall and organising several fun games which the children can take part in during the morning. 20p per game with the chance to win a prize! If anyone can help

<http://www.edubuzz.org/kingsmeadow/>

with the Christmas Fair, please e-mail kingsmeadowpta@gmail.com Thank you.

P5 Movie Night: Tuesday 7th February

Tickets will be priced at £2.50 which includes popcorn and a drink. Look out for flyers in schoolbags after the Christmas holidays.



Easyfundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online this Christmas you could be raising a free donation for King's Meadow Primary School?

There are over 3,100 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis and Sainsbury's and it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

To get started, all you have to do is:

Register@

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kingsmeadow> and sign up for free.

Shop

Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.

Raise

After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to us and it won't cost you a penny extra!

Please help us this Christmas by giving more than a gift – there are no catches or hidden charges and King's Meadow P.T.A. will be really grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support.

How can I get involved?

**Next P.T.A. Meeting: Tues. 17th January 2017,
6:30pm in the Music Room**

New members very welcome! If you can't make this meeting but would like to be involved, please e-mail kingsmeadowpta@gmail.com

Merry Christmas!