



Dear Parents and Carers.

This year, we are delighted that your school and your child will be taking part in our annual Primary Shakespeare Festival Project. The PSC started in 2009 working with six schools in Camden and has grown steadily ever since; this year the charity will work with over fifty primary schools across eleven London boroughs.

**WHAT DO WE DO?** We believe in using the arts- drama, music, and dance- to engage and inspire children.

Towards the end of this term the project will begin with your child watching our special storytelling performance of **The Winter's Tale**. This performance helps to introduce everyone to the story of the play.

In the summer term, one of our outstanding theatre directors/choreographers will come into your school. Together with your child's teacher they will be working to accomplish two things:

Firstly, they'll be working together to devise a piece of theatre/dance for the big festival performance day (dates below). Each participating school in your borough will work on a different part of the play which they then bring to the festival. Everyone then performs together so that the whole story is told. These performances are always amazing and inspiring events. **So, please make every effort to come and support your child on their day.**

Secondly, you will probably find that a lot of the work that your child does in class the summer term will be based around the story of The Winter's Tale. Our experience shows that this way of working has very clear benefits. The time they spend in workshops helps them understand what they are writing about and working on in class – and the writing that they do in class improves their performances! A win-win as they say.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?** Firstly, as we've already said, **please come to the performance if you can** (though I'm afraid we generally only have room for one parent or carer per child).

Date and Time	Venue
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June @4.00pm  The performance will be approx. 1 hour	Ryan Theatre Harrow School 5 Yew Walk Harrow HA1 3EJ

Next – do have a look at our website <https://www.primaryshakespearecompany.org/the-winter-s-tale>

You can also be really helpful by talking to your child about what they are doing as part of the project, helping your child to learn lines and going through their performances at home.

We hope your child will really enjoy this experience, and we'll leave the last words to one of the children who took part in Hamlet – Maruf: "You should go to be a part of it, because once you do it, you will never forget it. And it will help your writing and it will stay in your memory forever. "

With best wishes

Luke Williams and Neil Carter

**Artistic Director and Programme Director, The Primary Shakespeare Company**

[luke@primaryshakespearecompany.org](mailto:luke@primaryshakespearecompany.org)

[neil@primaryshakespearecompany.org](mailto:neil@primaryshakespearecompany.org)

[www.primaryshakespearecompany.org](http://www.primaryshakespearecompany.org)