



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the run up to a busy Christmas term. Despite it sometimes feeling chaotic, it really is a lovely time here at school that always seems to fly over with so much going on! And just because we like to keep busy – we have added a Christmas Fair to this year's celebrations! Details at the end of the newsletter.

With a special Remembrance Sunday this weekend, our Rights Respecting reference this time is aptly Article 30 '**Children have the Right to learn and use customs of their families**'



Anti-Bullying week – 12th – 16th November

Lots of activities both in class and through workshops next week in school to highlight anti-bullying week. So please don't be alarmed if children talk about the issue of bullying – that's all part of the way we encourage pupils to deal with any concerns that they have.

We will start the week with a **whole school assembly presented by Vicky and Val from ViVa**. We will also be continuing our work towards the **BiG Award** – a recognition of the work we do throughout the year to raise awareness of how to recognise bullying, how to deal with it and how to support those who may be vulnerable to all types of bullying. Check out more details at <https://www.bullyinginterventiongroup.com/>

Wallace and Gromit Pasta day – Tuesday 13th

It's all happening this Tuesday lunchtime! Did your child enter the colouring competition? There may be exciting visitors at lunchtime on Tuesday whilst we are enjoying our Pasta King meal...watch this space!



Reception Class and Nursery New Starters Open afternoon – 22nd November 1.30pm start



Do you know of any children who are due to start school or nursery next year? We are holding an open afternoon to give parents of prospective new pupils the opportunity to look around our provision, meet the staff and see what goes on. This is different to our normal school open afternoon which we have in May which is for parents of existing pupils, and to take part in activities in their child's class. If you do know of any new starters, please tell them about our open afternoon and encourage them to come along.

Remembrance Day Parade - Sunday

Thank you to parents who have signed up for the Service on Sunday. I have copied the order of the day below for info. I will be there to meet you and the children by 9.30am in the Market Place. As we are joining the parade as a school group, can I ask that the children wear their school uniform please.

*09.30am Parade gathers in Market Place Car Park**

09.45am Parade leaves Market Place

10.00am Service in St. Luke's Church

10.50am Parade leaves the Church and marches to the Cenotaph

11.00am Service, Wreath laying and last post

We do also still have the WW1 Commemoration Book here at school for you to record any personal family memories of the war and details of your family's life in Ferryhill at that time.



Children in Need 2018 – Friday 16th November

It's Pudsey time of year again! Pudsey and Children in Need is always a charity event that the children love to get involved with, so we can't disappoint! This year's theme is again 'Do your thing' and we asked the children this morning what they would like to do – and surprise, surprise they want to come in their PJ's/Onesies with messy hair! If everyone takes part and contributes even just a £1 on the day, we will be able to raise well over £200 for Pudsey. Any donation amount is welcomed. Thank you.

Operation Christmas Child – last call!

Thank you if you have already sent in a shoebox full of goodies for this year's shoebox appeal. (We don't seem to have had many at all this year yet).

If you do want to do one, then this weekend is the time to get it done. Please ensure it gets to us by next Thursday 15th November. They will then be collected and added to the collection at the Methodist Church. If you have lost your leaflet, don't worry, we have plenty more in the school office or, just clearly label the outside of the shoebox with the age group 2-4, 5-9, 10-14 and girl/boy. Please don't forget to include £3.00 towards transport costs. More details and case studies can be found on their website at www.operationchristmaschild.com



Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs Panto – reminder!

Our visit is fast approaching and we have had to pay the theatre so please, if you haven't already sent in, or paid your **contribution of £10 online**, can I ask that it is done as a matter of urgency. Unfortunately, although school fund can subsidise trips and does so regularly, we do need to have parental contributions too. Thank you for your support.



Christmas procession Friday 30th November

Thank you if you have already responded on the app to let us know that your child will be joining us for the procession on 30th November. There is still room for more to join if you would like them to. We leave St Luke's church at 4pm and children are asked to arrive at the church no later than 3.45pm. This year there is a nativity theme to the procession and children are encouraged to come along in nativity costumes, if they can. Staff from school will be there but it is important that the children are also accompanied by an adult. The children will be able to join other school children and teachers in the Town Hall Garden for carol singing and the big light switch-on.



Ferryhill's Festival of Christmas Trees Friday 30th Nov

This year's – bigger and better - Festival of Christmas Trees will again be held at the Methodist Chapel in the

village. It's a wonderful family event which will display Christmas Trees made by schools, churches, community groups, shops and businesses from the area. It will be open from 10am until 7pm on 30th Nov – same day as the Christmas Parade when lights are officially switched on. So pop along and see our school and nursery's wonderful Christmas inspired displays.

Year 6 Class Assembly – 21st November 2018

After a busy week away at Grinton YHA this week, Year 6 are looking forward to sharing their adventures with you at their assembly on 21st November at 9.30am. Please come along and join us if you can.

Switch off fortnight 17th Nov – 1st Dec

Although we are always trying our best to be 'switch-off' minded, taking part in curriculum activities during switch-off fortnight just gives us important reminders to be aware of wasting our resources. We will be extra careful to monitor our habits of turning devices and lights off - in and around school – and reminding parents and teachers to as well!



School Christmas Fair – Thursday 6th December 3.30pm – 5.00pm

Due to popular demand - we have planned in a Christmas Fair this year! A busy calendar of events already, I know, but there's nothing like a fair to get us right in the festive mood. Plans are already well underway – but we are also very open to any ideas you might have. I know there are lots of very creative parents out there – so don't be shy! We have plans for food and drinks, toy stall, tombola, Christmas crafts, a parent free zone where children can buy and wrap special gifts for their parents – and of course Santa will be in his grotto. Good quality toys and tombola and raffle donations are needed as soon as you can sort them ...please!