



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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GOLD - RIGHTS RESPECTING

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a busy Christmas term. We are grateful that lots of things have returned some sort of 'normality' but there will still be some things that we will need to do differently. We will try our very best to celebrate and enjoy the many positives that we do have to be thankful for

With 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 – 15th – 19th November

The theme for 2021 is 'One kind word' - this links really nicely with our well-being work. We will mark the first day of the week by participating in 'Odd Socks Day'. This allows children to express themselves and celebrate their individuality. Our PCSO is coming in to do an assembly (virtually) and then a workshop with Y5 and Y6 and children will be completing lots of activities in their classes around being kind and anti-bullying and we will share lots of photos of activities on Facebook and Twitter.

Children in Need Day – Friday 19th November

It seems very fitting that Children in Need Day is at the end of anti-bullying week. This year the theme is (using our motto) 'Together we can change young lives'. Through being kind and ensuring that our children are safe, happy and cared for, we can achieve this. We also need to consider those children who are less fortunate than ourselves and do our little bit to help.

We do have some Children in Need merchandise that was kindly donated for sale. Y6 will be selling items from Monday. We will end the week with children coming to school in their pj's and onesies for a small donation. Look out on our social media for some of the daily activities the children can complete.



Pumpkin Carving Competition

I bet some of you were thinking we had forgotten all about our competition. The problem we have had is that we had such a fantastic response that it made our job very difficult to choose our winners! Well done to everybody who took part – it looks like you had great fun carving your pumpkins!

Winners are: Halle M in Nursery, Oscar in Y3 and Kate in Y6. We really like how 2 of these winners had connected their pumpkins with a book character, and you know how much we love reading!

We also have a little extra prize for Destiny Elizabeth in Reception as we just found it too difficult to choose!

Look out for our next competition/challenge coming soon! I bet it has something to do with Christmas!





Remembrance Day

Thank you so much for all of the kind donations for the Poppy Appeal. We did have a moment of reflection at 11am yesterday and classes have looked at the importance of Remembrance Day as well. Our School Council members also represented the school at the Armistice Service at the Town Hall.

Friends of School Christmas Card and Christmas Pudding Fundraisers

All of the children completed a Christmas Card design and Mrs Whittaker needs your order returned to school no later than next Wednesday (17th) to ensure you receive your cards in time.

Mrs Whittaker also has a range of Christmas Puddings for sale. Flavour choices are plum pudding, luscious lemon and sticky toffee. If you would like one of these puddings then please send in £5 in a named envelope into school, stating which flavour you would like.



Switch off fortnight

8th Nov – 22th November

In assembly on Wednesday, we discussed Switch Off Fortnight. This nationwide campaign that takes place every November to encourage schools to switch off lights and electrical appliances when not in use for two weeks. The goal is to help us to save energy and monitor the impact of changing our views on energy usage. We would really everyone to think about energy usage at home too - how can we all make a difference. Please let us know how you get on!



NSPCC 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' online learning

As part of our anti-bullying week, I am pleased to tell you that we will be participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.*** online programme. This consists of an online assembly and supporting classroom-based activities. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a safeguarding programme available to all primary schools in the UK. It aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline.

In the online assembly, the *Speak out. Stay safe.* messages are delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of their mascot Buddy as well as special guest appearances from Ant and Dec.

We have studied the content of the materials and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of the programme, we're convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* Programme, you can find information on the NSPCC website www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout or I would be happy to discuss any questions that you may have.

Following the assemblies, there are classroom-based activities and resources for teachers to use and I'm sure you'll see more about it on our social media pages next week.

School Trips – annual Panto Robin Hood

We are so pleased that we are able to return to the Gala Theatre for our annual trip to the Panto. I am sure you will agree that trips and visits enhance our curriculum substantially as well as being great fun. We try to give our children the best possible experiences, and through our School Fund, we do subsidise all trips. Even though we do have our own mini buses, we often still need additional transport and of course many activities/places charge for admission. We do therefore need to request parental contributions and without these contributions the trips could not go ahead. We do try to spread out the visits during the year and term for each class, although sometimes opportunities arise out of the blue! Thank you for your continued support with this and if any contributions are difficult, please speak to your child's class teacher or myself and we will be happy to help when we can.



This year's Panto trip is already booked and the whole school – from Reception Class to Year 6 - will again visit the Gala Theatre on Tuesday 7th December to see Robin Hood. The total cost including admission and transport will be £10 per child which you can pay online at <https://schoolcomms.com>. If you have never used Schoolcomms before please follow this link to login and then - parent login, new user and enter your mobile number and email address that we have for you at school. You will then be sent a pin to your phone. It's very simple to set up and once you have it working you can use it again and again. The payment will be available from Monday.

Parent Interview Discussions

Thank you to everyone who has attended so far. I know there are still some next week. These discussions are extremely valuable and I hope that you have found them beneficial, not only finding out about your child's progress but also how you can support their learning at home too. If you haven't been able to attend, please contact the class teacher via the class email to arrange an appointment.

Christmas Light Procession – 26th November

Just a reminder about the Christmas Light Procession in a fortnight's time – thank you if you have responded on the app. I have now let the Town Council know how many we are expecting to attend. Apologies for the misprint on the last newsletter – it is not our turn to switch the lights on (we did it last time). The Town Council have also advised that children may be required to wear a mask in St Luke's Church.



Sports Update

Boxercise - Year 5 and Year 6 really enjoyed taking part in a boxercise and mental health session last week at school. For the next few weeks, some children in Year 3 and 4 will be attending an after-school club in boxercise - they really enjoyed their first session this week!

We do still have some available spaces in the boxercise club so, if you would like to join, please contact school.

Go Well Heart Project - KS2 children should have brought booklet 2 home this week after an assembly on Wednesday. We are currently working on Week 7. Don't forget to keep sending your pictures to the class email accounts or Mr Blood on Teams.

Gymnastics - Year 2 and Year 6 enjoyed their first coaching session on Monday in gymnastics. They will be continuing to work with the coach over the next few weeks. Also, Year 1 and Year 2 children have enjoyed their first after school gymnastics club too.

Year 6 Sportshall Athletics

A big well done to all of the Year 6 children who represented the school so well at their recent competition. We had some great individual performances and plenty of the children beat their personal bests.

Upcoming Events

November 15th - Year 5 and 6 children will be taking part in a biking day. Further information has been sent out about this on the app.