



November 2017 Newsletter

3rd November 2017

Dates to remember:

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Inside this issue:

Attendance	2
Staffing News	2
Gentle Reminders	2
Health and safety	3
Parent's Question-	4
Christmas Art Competition	4

Upcoming dates:

- * Christmas Fayre 11th
December 2.00pm
- * Christmas Performance
18th and 19th
December
- * Christmas Dinner 20th
December
- * Pantomime and party
day 21st December
- * Christingle in Church
22nd December
- * Return to school—
Monday 8th January

Friendship Week –13th—17th November

This week is known nationally as Anti Bullying Week. As a school we will be looking at ways to deal with all types of unkind, unfriendly and bullying behaviours. This can often become quite negative so the children prefer it if we tackle these difficult issues by teaching us all about how to be a good friend, to be inclusive and to celebrate differences at school, at home, and in the local, national and global community.

Please join us to celebrate what the classes have learnt in a special assembly on **Friday 17th November at 9.05 am**. You will then be invited to join the children for activities in class and if you are very good there will be refreshments for adults in aid of Children in Need.

Children in Need

For £1.00 come in your spots or stipes (to celebrate differences!) on **Friday 17th** to raise money for Children in Need—the spottier or stripier the better.

School Photographs

These will take place on **Thursday 30th November** for children in school. Please complete the form sent home and return to the Office by Thursday 16th.

Book Week The Scholastics Book Fair will be arriving on Friday 24th November until 1st December. We are always so proud of how the children in our school enjoy reading and note how well reading is supported by families at home. Improving the progress and attainment of the children by the time they leave us is a key school priority this year.

Thank you

Shoe Box Appeal - before we broke up for the holidays there were 27 boxes brought in from our very generous and thoughtful school community. Once we have a final figure and information of where they have been delivered to we will let you know.

Parents Meeting—thank you to all those family members who attended the parents meetings where hopefully you learnt how exercise directly supports brain development and improved learning. Well done to all those who joined in the exercises.

Attendance

Attendance for the first half term of 2017/18

	October	September— October	Top table for October	Total attendance for School in October 94%
FS 1	82%	83.25%		Total attendance for School for the school year so far 95.2%
FS 2	91.7%	92.3%		
Y1	92.7%	95.5%	😊	
Y2	93.4%	94.9%	😊	
Y3	96.7%	95.9%	😊	
Y4	96.5%	96.3%	😊	
Y5	92.2%	94.4%		
Y6	95.2%	96.5%		

Congratulations to those classes over 95% so far –Y3, Y4 and Y6

Gong to Foundation Stage - keep trying to improve

Children with 90% or less attendance at the end of each half term will receive a letter asking if you require any support to improve this. Any letters from school are to be seen as supportive to assist you in monitoring your child's attendance and seeking help if needed. There is plenty of evidence that shows good attendance = good progress.

Staff News

Miss Neil started her maternity leave and very quickly had a lovely healthy little boy. We all congratulate her and hope for many quiet nights and enjoyable days.

We have 3 temporary members of staff appointed to support individual children in school. Welcome to Mrs. Ford working in FS2, Miss Brown working in FS1 and Miss Mills working in Y1.

Gentle reminders

It would be really helpful if children bringing money into school for clubs or dinners could have it in an envelope clearly labelled and brought to the office. Tracking those who have and haven't paid is causing a few issues currently.

Please also remember to pay for all clubs as we are already subsidising them and we do not want to raise the costs for you any further.

Rachael sent out a flyer with request for the **Christmas Fayre** and all donations will be gratefully received. The Fayre will take place on Monday 11th December from 2pm.

Health and Safety

Children walking home – we will require written notification from parents/carers who are allowing older KS2 children to walk home unaccompanied by an adult. If you choose for this to happen please ensure that you have reminded your child to walk straight home and also discuss road safety and stranger danger with them. We know this is an important way to prepare older children for Secondary School.

NSPCC Assembly—we were lucky to have assemblies and workshops again this year to support teaching the children about keeping themselves safe. They learnt the PANTS rule which would be useful to share with you—there are many more really helpful resources on their website.

P PRIVATES ARE PRIVATE

A ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR BODY BELONGS TO YOU

N NO MEANS NO

T TALK ABOUT SECRETS THAT UPSET YOU

S SPEAK UP, SOMEONE CAN HELP

Evacuation Practice—you can be very proud of the children and have confidence in the staff as the latest evacuation was extremely well carried out with all children out in 1.5 minutes. They all then sensibly went back to their work with no fuss! I'm very proud of everyone.

E –cadets—we have children trained now in school to support and deliver training to everyone about safety on line. Recently Matthew and Shannon delivered an assembly to the school.

Mini Police –15 children are currently being trained to support the school community in keeping safe, behaving as good citizens and supporting those who may need a helping hand. We look forward to seeing the impact of this work.

First day Absence Phone Calls - please remember to contact school immediately if your child is absent, otherwise we will ring and text to get hold of you. If we are unable to speak to you in some cases we will come and do a home visit. This is to not only to be supportive but also to offer any help if needed if there are difficulties of any kind at home or in gaining appropriate medical help.

Friendship Week -(Anti Bullying Week)

During this week the children will be learning about all aspects relating to bullying including cyber bullying. Please support this work by talking to your child about being kind, behaving responsibly and what to do if they are becoming a victim of bullying behaviours in and especially out of school. There will be more advice and guidance at our special assembly on Friday 17th November at 9.05am. Please join us.

Flu Immunisations— these were successfully carried out for children in FS2—Y4 on Thursday 2nd November. Any child who missed it can access this from their GP surgery.

Parents Questionnaire

These are the key comments and requests you made to improve school:

- **More after school clubs** (we have tried to vary the choice this year in line with what the children have asked for and there is at least one club each evening except Friday)
- **All children to conform to school uniform**—especially shoes (we are continually trying to reinforce the importance of this and it is improving)
- **More School Outings**—(We have an offsite visit or a visitor in class for every half term topic. This is a great expense to the school budget and is something we use the pupil premium money for to enable all children to have a wide range of experiences. We share your view that more would be even better but we also believe the children get more opportunities in this school than many other schools can offer).
- **End of Year Summer Fayre** (we would be happy for this to take place if there are enough volunteers out there willing to organise it at such a very busy time of year for staff)
- **More notice for Star of The Week** (we know this causes a problem for some families who cannot get time off work at short notice, we always accommodate those who would like their child to go first so they can dash off to work by 9.15am. We also are happy to ring or text you in the afternoon (after 1pm) on Thursday to let you know if that helps as long as the surprise of the child bringing the slip home is not spoilt! It is a great incentive for the children throughout the week to aim for this award, choosing the award earlier in the week would not have the same impact for the children.)
- **Less Bullying in school** (we couldn't agree with you more but we have to be careful about using the term bullying, this is when it is on-going rather than a one off incident. We deal with this proactively by teaching children to be kind, respectful and inclusive and reactively when it has occurred through a restorative approach that would always involve informing families. This is why weeks like Friendship Week are so important).

We genuinely value your comments and concerns and hope you feel you can discuss any you have with staff. We also loved all your positive comments—a small thank you means a lot to us.

Christmas Art Competition

To give you all plenty of notice the theme this Christmas for the art competition is **The importance of Family**. We need the art work to be able to be displayed on the walls in the hall. This years challenge is to have something that pops up or opens up / out ! Get creative and have all entries in for judging by Thursday 30th November. The winners will be announced on Friday 8th December.

Maeve Mackenzie

Head Teacher
