January 2024 Newsletter

Message from the Head Teacher

Firstly, let me wish you all a very happy new year. I hope that you enjoyed the Christmas break, found some time to relax and to have family time together.

This term we will welcome you to attend the more informal class cafes, where the children will show you their learning and introduce you to some of the methods used in school. Dates of these will be arranged at the first staff meeting, and then we will share them with you all. We do hope that you are able to attend.

I would also like to say a thank you to staff members who arrange such exciting events for the children to attend. So far, the younger classes have attended a Pantomime, there have been several themed days across the school, topic trips in Year 5 and 6 and of course there is the eagerly anticipated trip to Young Voices at the O2 for Years 4, 5 and 6. I just wanted to let you know that thanks to the Rotary club, we have been able to offer either an experience or the cost of the coach to at trip, through the £4,000 that was donated to the school. A massive thank you to the Rotary club!

With regards

Dawn Deacon

Fundraising

The PTA will be taking part in the jumble sale at The Beeches centre, this coming weekend. They will be selling some of the items that have been left over from the Christmas fair, but also ask for any unwanted toys, clothing, and games/jigsaws etc, to add to the stall.

Please have these items in school, at least by Friday morning, so that they can be prepared for the sale on Saturday.

Collective Worship

Over the coming half term, the children will be focusing on the school Christian value of courage. They will hear bible stories such as, David and the Lions, David and Goliath, Moses, and of course how Jesus showed courage during his crucifixion.

A logo of a tie and a star

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A child's drawing of a child and a dog

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‘Finding Nemo’ or ‘Finding Dorey’ & talk about the many times these two small fish face up to their fears during their journeys, for the sake of friendship. This clip focuses on the moment that Nemo shows courage in saving Dorey from the fishermen’s net: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulucJnxT7B4>

Maybe you could watch the clip and talk about courage to help others.

Parent Forum

I hope that you have all see that there will be a further parent forum, held at 2.30pm on Tuesday 13th February.

The last forum had the most parents that I had seen attend, and it was a real opportunity for them to hear about school developments and plans, and for me to hear about successes and ways to improve the routines and communication at school.

There were several improvements suggested and the school has attempted to action these.

1. The path is busy and dangerous on entry to school in the morning. Action: The reception parents have been asked to drop their children at the playground from 8.50am onwards to walk around the grounds with the older children.
2. The Class Dojo pages are full and hard to find important information. Action: DD to clear the unneeded posts from the main class page, so that the essential information is clearer.
3. What items does the school want and need? Parents would like to donate items to the school. Action: a parent has now set up a ‘Wish List’ on a purchasing website. Staff will add items onto the list, as they are needed, and parents may purchase them for the school. (Please see the bar code opposite to do this.)
4. Could parents have more support with helping their children with reading and maths at home? Action: the school has already held a reading session for the reception parents and has planned a further session for parents of children in Year 1 and 2. There are plans for more maths support, over the Spring term.

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<https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1Q5TQSENY0560/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1>

Thank you to the parent who has already purchased batteries for the school, and a huge thank you to the parent who set up the page. It saved us a lot of time and is now very easy to access and add in items.

A logo with stars and a moon

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School Fundraising for charity

In collaboration with Lisa Radcliffe (George’s mum) we have decided to hold a ‘welly walk’ for the school to attend over the afternoon of the 14th of February 2024.  There will possibly be a 2.30pm start (not confirmed just yet), with the whole school walking around the field together, enjoying time and being a community.

Lisa has said that to hold it on Valentines Day would be fitting as, one of George’s lessons we can learn is to ‘love big’.  She was also hoping that it could be a day to promote being out and about and spending time with those we love. We will be asking the children to donate money towards the appeal for funds to help with research into rhabdomyosarcoma, a soft tissue cancer.  (not a sponsored event this year, as we are aware that we have held several over the most recent years)

The house captains have also asked if they can run a Lego model competition.  Each child can enter a photograph of a Lego model that they have completed, donate £1 as an entry fee, as there will be a winner, who will receive a Lego kit.

The final memorial that will be created for George, is a mural of a butterfly, made with bottle tops.  His family are keen to reuse materials, and George loved to collect things while on his walks, so this seemed a great idea – thanks to Miss Simmons!  Please keep collecting any coloured bottle tops, so that we can create a beautiful butterfly and make it colourful! All bottle tops will be greatly received.

A child holding a briefcase and waving

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A child holding a stick

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A child in a hat

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A pair of blue rain boots

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