

Newsletter



Newsletter 4

18th October, 2019

Assembly Themes: Next week: Behaviour Week after half term: Belonging

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe that it is only a week until half term! The children have been very busy and can be proud of their hard work, harmonious play and positive attitudes towards all aspects of school life. We are proud of them all. I hope that you have found the online booking system for Parent Teacher Consultations helpful – this has been a free trial, so before we decide whether to invest in it for the future, we would very much welcome your feedback on the system. I look forward to seeing you next week!



Eco Team

I am delighted to inform you that as a result of the work undertaken by the Eco Team – led by Miss Grainger, with Mrs Ryding taking a leading role during her maternity leave – we have been awarded a FOURTH Green Flag! This is a great achievement for the children, as the Green Flag is the highest award available. The Eco team will be recruiting some new members now, and will be agreeing their next project, which they will be working on over the next two years.



Sporting Success – Cross Country Running

Huge congratulations to our amazing Cross Country Running Team! The team, consisting of children from Years 5 & 6, with two Year 4s running as Year 5s, took part in the Stevenage Sporting Futures Cross Country Running Meet. The children did exceptionally well, with all of the children completing the course; Year 5 Girls Team finished in 3rd Place and Year 5 and Year 6 Boys teams finished in 1st Place! Special mention goes to William L who came in 1st place overall and Hazel – who finished in 3rd place – running a year up, and Max who came in 7th place – also running a year up! We are really grateful to all of the parents who helped with transport, and to Mel who trained the team and organised them on the day.



Sporting Success – Football

We are also very proud of our Senior Boys Football team, who won the Stevenage Football Tournament! We were particularly pleased with this result, because the children have worked really hard on their teamwork skills to ensure that these match their football skills. They displayed these to great effect and were extremely encouraging and supportive of each other. Thank you to Mr Browne – team coach – and to our supporters.



Vaping

As parents will be aware, smoking has been banned on all school premises for a number of years. In line with this, vaping is not permitted either, due to the health risks identified with children. Thank you for your support.



Outdoor Shoes

As the weather has deteriorated, it has become more important that children have old trainers for playing outside. We encourage them to wear the black shoes they walk to school in, when they are indoors – we know how expensive they are, and want you to get value for money out of them! Children in Foundation Stage wear wellies outside.



Reading to your child

Recently, we have been discussing books at bedtime with the children. Whilst some children continue to listen to a story, some have replaced this with screen time or playtime. There has been a huge amount of research to show the benefits of children listening to stories, right up to Year 6 – and beyond! As well as those you would expect, such as increased vocabulary, better understanding of story structure, improved comprehension skills and understanding of relationships and consequences, children have also been shown to achieve at a higher level in their maths if they are read to regularly. In school we have class books as well as regular opportunities to read texts aloud, with and to the children.

We understand that it can be very difficult to find time to read to your child, but anything you are able to do, will really benefit their learning. Parents may not be aware that they can borrow e-books and audio books from the library for no charge, as well as a wide range of physical books – again, for no charge. More information can be found at: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/libraries-and-archives.aspx> There is lots of information too, including recommended reads for different ages, on the Literacy Trust website: <http://wordsforlife.literacytrust.org.uk/> If you have any queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact either your child's teacher or me.



PTFA

The PTFA will be holding a Children's Film Night on Friday 8th November, from 6 – 8 p.m. There will be three age appropriate films to choose from. All children who attend the school are welcome to come along, provided they are able to maintain concentration for the films being shown. Refreshments will be served during an interval – the cost of these is included in the price of £3.50.

All parents and carers are invited to come to our next PTFA meeting, on Thursday 7th November at 7.30 p.m. in



RE Day

We will be holding an RE WOW! Day on the theme of symbols, on Thursday 7th November. The children will be taking part in a range of activities during the afternoon: if you would like to come along to help, please let your child's teacher know.



Happy Holidays!

Friday 25th October is an INSET Day and the school will be closed to children. As this will be the last newsletter before half term, I wish you all a relaxing and peaceful break.

Please remember that I am always happy to discuss any issues with you. Thank you for reading this newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Pollard
HEADTEACHER