

Newsletter



Newsletter 5

November 10th 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have enjoyed two very busy and productive weeks since the children came back after half term; it has been lovely to see the children's hard work displayed around the school. Thank you to all of the families who attended the Reception Literacy evening on Tuesday, and to Mrs Ogle for her fantastic presentation.

Christmas is starting to break out everywhere, with play rehearsals starting and people getting ready for the forthcoming shopping evening – further details below – we hope to see you there! As you will be aware, on Friday 24th November, the school will be closed, as it is the school's Occasional Day.



Author Visit

We all enjoyed our visit from Su Murley, who came visit us last week. As well as sharing the book, with a high level of audience participation, she also told them about the process of becoming a published author. We now have a special signed copy in our library for everyone to enjoy. The children really enjoyed Su's visit and had lots of ideas for her next book. Watch this space...



We appreciate it is not easy for many families at the moment, with the increased cost of living, so we thought it would be helpful to share the activities booked so far, where we request voluntary contributions to cover the cost of the activity. We expect to be able to update the list with the trips for the rest of the classes, after Christmas.

Next year, we plan to book all events as far in advance as possible, so that we can share the dates at the beginning of the school year to help with any financial planning. Wherever possible, these will not take place in the same time period as other trips, so that families with siblings have a gap between requests for money. We are committed to all children taking part, so please do not hesitate to contact the school office, or me directly, if finances could be a barrier to a child attending.

Date	Event	Year group
16.11.23	Duxford	6
19.12.23	Whole School Visit to the Pantomime	All
Jan – March	School Swimming – weekly lessons	3
29.2.24	St Albans Cathedral	5
14.3.24	Hertford Museum	3
April - July	School Swimming – weekly lessons	2
7.5.24 - 8.5.24	Tolmers Residential Trip	5
23.5.24	Harry Potter World	6
17.6.24 – 21.6.24	Isle of Wight Residential Trip	6



Film Night

Film night takes place this evening from 6 – 7.45 p.m. All children who attend the school, and are able to maintain the concentration needed to be able to watch a film independently, are welcome! The entry cost is £3.00 which includes refreshments, and can be paid on the School Gateway, or on the night. Films on show are: *Puss in Boots*, *Super Mario Brothers* and *Lyle Lyle Crocodile*. This is a change from the previous information sent out.



Pantomime

We are currently finalising all the arrangements for the trip to the pantomime. If your child will be remaining in school and not going for any reason, please could you let the school office know as soon as possible, so that we can arrange for one of our regular cover teachers to come in to teach them? Thank you.



PTFA Christmas shopping evening

The PTFA Christmas Shopping evening is always a lovely event and marks the beginning of our Christmas. This year it takes place on Thursday 23rd November, from 7 – 9 p.m. Entry is £3 for adults and free for children and ex-pupils (whatever their age!). There will be a number of stalls, offering a range of Christmas gifts for sale. Father Christmas will be our celebrity guest, assisted by elf helpers from Year 6, and the staff who have been asked to prepare his grotto.

The PTFA would welcome any donations of mince pies, yule logs and/or offers of help. We need people to help set up the hall and clear away afterwards, as well as run some PTFA activities, such as the refreshments. Any help you can offer, will be greatly appreciated. Profits from this event go towards paying for the coaches for the pantomime, which reduces the cost for everyone.



Christmas Present Wrapping

Children are invited to donate a small gift, wrapped as creatively as possible by them! These items are then sold on the PTFA stall. Entries need to be brought into school on the morning of the 23rd November. Please could these be labelled with the wrapper's name (so we know who to give the prizes to) and the age band of the child the present is intended for?



Chocolate Day 17th November

For one day only, children are invited to bring 2 bars of chocolate into school for snack time – one to eat, and one to donate to the Christmas shopping evening chocolate stall. This has been a great fundraiser for the PTFA in the past – we hope your child will want to take part!



Raffle Prizes

The PTFA would welcome the donation of any items which would be suitable for raffle prizes. These can be brought to the School Office. Thank you in advance!



Sport Update

The children have recently taken part in a number of tournaments: Boccia, Basketball and Benchball, as well as Netball and Football matches. All of the children involved have represented the school beautifully and been a credit to everyone. We have had some mixed fortunes, but finished in 8th place in Basketball, 2nd and 7th place in Benchball.

Our Netball team have played their first game of the season, which they lost by a small margin, and the Girls Football team have also played their first game, in a close fought match. Thank you to all of the staff who have taken the teams to these events.



Cleaner Needed

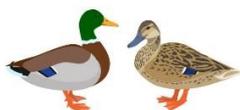
Attached to this newsletter is an advert for a school cleaner. Hours can be flexible – either mornings or after school. If you would like to discuss the role further, please don't hesitate to ask us.



Primary Applications

The admissions process for applications to our Reception Class for September 2024 is now open. Further information can be found at: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx>

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office, if you would like a tour of the school, need any support in making your application, or need access to a computer to do so.



Ducks

You may have noticed that it is unusually quiet in the animal enclosure; the ducks are fine – they are currently on holiday with Auntie Grainger, whilst their enclosure is being re-seeded. They will soon be back and quacking!

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

Yours sincerely,

Liz Pollard
HEADTEACHER



Community News

☆ ☆ Coats 4 Kids ☆ ☆

FREE PRELOVED WINTER COATS
FOR FAMILIES IN NEED.
ZERO COST. ZERO JUDGEMENT.

STEVENAGE FIRE STATION
SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER
10AM - MIDDAY

f JOIN THE FACEBOOK GROUP FOR REQUESTS & DONATIONS
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/COATS4KIDSHERTS



St Mary's Church, Welwyn - Junior Choir

St Mary's is restarting its Junior Choir in January. A lot of students showed great interest in joining; so if your child is in Year 3 or up, and is interested in free singing/musical tuition and is available on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm, please contact Rob Milner (07540 847599) to register interest. The choir is not auditioned and welcomes all abilities.



iDance

There are some spaces in dance classes that take place in the village. The timetable is attached to the email, or please email info@idance.org.uk