

Newsletter



Newsletter 6

22nd November, 2019

Assembly Themes: Next week: Problems and Solutions **Week after:** Advent

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas is fast approaching and we are all enjoying hearing the children learn their songs and lines as they prepare for the Christmas plays. We look forward to seeing you at these, and at the forthcoming Christmas Shopping Evening! We hope you enjoy the 'occasional day' next Friday.



Good ideas!

One of our parents has come up with the excellent idea of a 'Welly Swap Shop'! Children often do not wear their wellies for long, before they grow out of them, so the suggestion is that one day, after school, people would donate their old wellies with the option of picking up a bigger pair to fit their child. If they wished, they could make a small donation (50p?) to the PTFA, but the key aim would be recycling within our school community. If any parent would be willing to oversee this, please could you let me know, and I will publicise this to everyone? Thank you in advance!



Reading to your child

Further to the message sent home previously in the newsletter about the benefits of reading to your child, I was delighted to receive the little poster above in my email box. Recently, I was listening to some of the children reading, with one of the Literacy Advisers from Herts for Learning. It was a real pleasure, with all of the children speaking enthusiastically about their books and their reading. One of the Year 5 boys read particularly well, with great fluency and expression. We asked him what he thought had helped him become such a good reader, and he told us that his mum reads to him and his little sister every night and she is so good at reading with expression that he thought he would give it a go himself! If you are that parent, please come and see me for a gold headteacher award!



Carols By Candlelight

We are delighted to be invited to sing at the Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 22nd December 2019 at St. Giles at 6.00 p.m. If your child belongs to choir and is available to sing, please could you let me know, so that I

can decide which carols would be best for us to perform? I will send a slip out nearer the time – alternatively, please let the office know, in person, or by email. Thank you in advance.



Pantomime Visit

As you are aware we have the pantomime visit coming up on Thursday 5th December. As lunch will be later than usual, we would like the children to bring a snack and a drink with them, to eat during the interval. This could be crisps, fruit, or a sandwich. School uniform will be worn (as usual) apart from Nursery, so that the children can be spotted quickly and easily when they are in the theatre. The staff team and helpers will be accompanying the children, ensuring a high ratio of adults to children. We anticipate returning to school for about 1 p.m. Nursery parents are most welcome to wait for their children in the school hall.

I am sure that we will have a wonderful morning. If you have any further queries, or should finance be an issue, please don't hesitate to contact me



Fruit Juice Donations request

For the fourth year, we will be joining with other schools for the Hitchin Partnership Hamper Project. This provides hampers for local families in need, with all of the things needed for a Christmas dinner. We have pledged to provide 60 cartons of juice – donations of long life cartons would be greatly appreciated – they can be left in the school office. Thank you in advance for your support.



Free Books for Schools

We are collecting tokens from The Sun and The Sun on Sunday; these will be in the papers between 23rd November and January 18th. We need to collect 3,500 tokens to receive a pack of 105 books from Collins Big Cat scheme. Thank you in advance for your help.



Swimming Success

Congratulations to William in Year 6 who represented the region in the English Swimming Association Gala for the South East and East of England. This is a very high level gala and William won a silver medal in butterfly and a bronze medal in breaststroke! We are really proud of him – I know that he works really hard for this success!



Children in Need – Rickshaw Challenge

Thank you for your support for Children in Need – we raised £166! Although we had a long wait, in the freezing cold, the children were exemplary in their own behaviour and in the care and kindness they showed

towards others. We were so proud of them and received lots of positive comments from members of the public regarding how outstanding they were. We also appreciate the kindness of one family, who gave us some sweets to give to the children, and to the Ryding family, who very kindly allowed the children to use their toilet, so that they didn't miss the rickshaw! Thank you too, to the parents who worked really hard to find out where the rickshaw was and when it was likely to be coming past us, as the timescales appeared to be abandoned at this point!



Christmas Shopping Evening

We are all looking forward to the Christmas Shopping Evening next Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. with stalls, refreshments, Father Christmas and lots more. Entry costs £2.50 for adults – children and former pupils are free. Wednesday is bring your favourite two chocolate bars to school – children can eat one of these, the other will be on the tombola stall! We are looking forward to judging the Christmas Present Wrapping Competition – the entries need to be brought to school on Thursday morning. We would be delighted to receive donations of cakes and mince pies which will be sold on the refreshment stall. Offers of help to set up and clear up will be welcomed. We hope to see you there!



Applications to Reception

Parents and carers are now able to apply for a place in Reception for September 2020 for children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016. Further information is available at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions The website has full details about the application process. If you do not have access to a computer to make an application, please do not hesitate to speak to either Ms Pearce – Office Manager, or me and we will be happy to help.

Key dates are:

- 15th January 2020: deadline for applications
- 16th April 2020: Allocation day

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

Yours sincerely,

Liz Pollard
HEADTEACHER