

Newsletter



Newsletter 9

10th January 2020

Assembly themes: Next week: Compassion & Kindness Following week: Truth & Honesty

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! It has been lovely to see the children back in school and hear about their adventures over the Christmas break; they have made a great start to the term. We have lots of events to look forward to – I have listed these at the end of the newsletter.



Edgar!

We have been delighted to welcome a new character to our school – Edgar – the John Lewis dragon. Edgar has already been very useful in assembly – we have been talking about finding good ways to develop and use your talents through the year. I am sure he will be an invaluable cast member in plays over the coming years!

In addition, you may have noticed some beautiful wire rabbits, which have taken occupation of our roundabout - we have some more which are going to be part of an art project. We are really grateful to John Lewis for donating these items to us.



Clothing Collection

To raise funds for the PTFA and to support our Eco Team in their re-cycling projects, we plan to hold a textiles collection later in the term. We will give you advance notice of the date items need to be brought in – these are collected on the day, by the re-cycling company. In the meantime, please hang on to any clothing, hats, belts, handbags, sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers curtains and towels. Non logo school uniform can also be brought in. Thank you in advance for your help.



NSPCC Cake Sale

We are holding an NSPCC cake sale after school, on Thursday 23rd January, to support the work of the NSPCC. All donations of cake would be most welcome – due to allergies of children in school, we request that these are nut free.



PTFA

Big Breakfast



Whatever the weather, our Big Breakfast is always a great start to a Friday morning. On Friday 17th January, from 8.30. Bacon rolls (£2), pastries (£1), hot (£1) and cold (20p) drinks will be on sale.



Bingo Night!

A Family Bingo night will take place on Saturday 8th February, from 5.00 – 7.00 p.m. Everyone welcome! Entry costs £4 for adults and £2.00 for children a ticket, which includes a light snack of a sausage in a roll – vegetarian option available. There will be a licensed bar, raffle, dobbers on sale and plenty of games of Bingo! Everyone welcome - come along for a fun family evening!



Class Assemblies

Date	Class	Date	Class
23.1.20	Year 5	27.2.20	Year 2
30.1.20	Year 4	12.3.20	Year 3 Mimram & Lodge
6.2.20	Year 1	19.3.20	Year 3 Bury & St. Giles
		26.3.20	Year 6
		2.4.20	Choir Assembly

These are the class assemblies as planned for the term to date! The children share their learning with the rest of the school and you are most welcome to join us. Occasionally, it is necessary to change the dates, due to other events happening in school. When this is the case, we try to inform parents via the usual communication systems, but if you are unsure if an assembly is taking place, please do not hesitate to check with your child’s teacher or the office.

We expect children to enter the hall and sit quietly whilst they wait for everyone to arrive. Therefore, we ask for your support in this by finishing conversations as the first children arrive in the hall. Thank you in advance.



Carol Service

Thank you very much to Seb, Abbi, Belle, Jack, Lucy, Annie, Henry, Frankie, Belle, Eve, Isaac, Vanna, Maddie & Hazel, who represented the school at the Carols by Candlelight service at St. Giles so beautifully. Thank you to Mrs Broad for coming too – we were both very proud of the children’s lovely singing and excellent behaviour.



	Before School	Lunchtime	After School
Monday		Maypole/Country dancing KS2	Art Club – Years 2- 4 Spring Term Hockey Club Starting 23 rd January
Tuesday	Cross Country – Years 2-6	*Tennis – Year 1	
Wednesday		Sword Dancing – KS2 Board games Club (in 326)	Basketball Club
Thursday	Cross Country – Years 2-6	*Tennis – Years 2 & 3 Coding Club	Football Club Starting 23 rd January Netball Club Starting 23 rd January
Friday		Choir – Years 4 – 6 Film Club from 24 th Jan to half term	Dance Festival Club

Year 6 are welcome to come into school from 8.30 to do Rock Star times tables in the IT suite. KS2 siblings may accompany them to do the same, by prior arrangement with the Office or Mr Browne.

*Tennis is run by a local coach and a small charge is made for this activity, which goes to the club organiser. This information is sent out by him. All other clubs are run by school staff, and as a result, no cost is involved. Unless stated otherwise, clubs will start w/c 13th January (next week)



School Uniform

We have recently noticed a number of ‘variations’ creeping into school uniforms, including hoodies, so thought it would be helpful to clarify the expectations:

- Navy blue or pale blue polo shirt*
- Navy blue jumper/sweatshirt/cardigan/school fleece*
- Navy blue skirt, pinafore, culottes or trousers (girls)
- Grey trousers or shorts (boys)
- Blue/white checked dress or shorts suit (girls summer)
- White or navy socks/tights (girls) grey or navy socks (boys) – Funky choice for Fridays!
- Sensible shoes.

P.E. kit is as follows:

- Navy Round-necked T Shirt with school logo*
- Navy Shorts

- Navy Sweatshirt/Blue track suits bottoms for cold weather
Plimsolls or trainers for outdoor games.
- *These items can be purchased through school. We always have supplies of good quality second hand uniform available which we are happy to give parents on request, as part of our commitment to re-cycling.

If there are any issues or concerns regarding any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Is your child getting enough sleep?

I am sure that the children have enjoyed some late nights over the past few weeks and it may have been a struggle to get them up in time for school this week! Before Christmas, a number of parents told us that their children were very tired and asked us about the recommended amount of sleep for children. The Millpond Children's Sleep Clinic – a leading centre for sleep - gives this guidance:

- 4 years: 11 hours 30 minutes
- 5 years: 11 hours
- 6 years: 10 hours 45 minutes
- 7 years: 10 hours 30 minutes
- 8 years: 10 hours 15 minutes
- 9 years: 10 hours
- 10 years: 9 hours 45 minutes
- 11 years: 9 hours 30 minutes

Obviously, some children need less or more sleep than others, but hopefully this will give parents a reference point. There is a really helpful guide on the Sleep Council Website which addresses issues such as children finding it hard to go to sleep or settle again if they wake up in the night: https://www.sleepcouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/the_good_night_guide_for_children.pdf

If you do not have a printer at home, but would find a paper copy helpful, we would be pleased to print a copy for you.

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

Yours sincerely,

Liz Pollard
HEADTEACHER



Diary Dates

Spring Term 2020

Date	Time	Event	People involved
16.1.20	10 - 12	Year 4 Rapid Fire Cricket	Year 4 cricket team & Mel
16.1.20	TBC	Quiz Club Team competition	Quiz team and Mrs Abrahams
17.1.20	8.30 a.m	PTFA Big Breakfast	Everyone!
22.1.20	a.m.	NSPCC Assembly –	Children & Staff
23.1.20	7.00 p.m.	Governors Meeting	Governors
23.1.20	3.15	NSPCC cake sale	Everyone
27.1.20	a.m.	KS2 Sporting Futures on Tour – Hall out of action	Children & Staff
28.1.20	p.m.	NSPCC workshops	Children & Staff
29.1.20	9 - 12	KS2 Inclusive Festival	Selected team & Mel
29.1.20	4.00 – 5.30	Year 5 Maths Challenge Team	Year 5 team & Mrs Abrahams
1.2.20	a.m.	Cross Country Westminster Lodge	Cross Country team, Mel & Mrs Pollard
5.2.20	All day	Art Day	Children, staff and volunteers
6.2.20	TBC	Year 4 Speed Stacking Competition	Year 4 Speed Stacking team
8.2.20	5.00-7.00	PTFA family Bingo night!	Families & PTFA
12.2.20	5.00-7.00	Parent Consultation Evening - Late	Parents & Staff
13.2.20	8.30 – 9.00	Parent Consultation Morning	Parents & Staff
	3.30 – 5	Parent Consultation Evening	
13.2.20	9.30 - 12	Year 5 & 6 Sports Hall Athletics	Athletics Team
17.2.20 - 21.2.20			Half Term
26.2.20	All Day	Scholastic Book Fair Arrives (until 3.3.20)	Children & Parents
27.2.20	2.30 – 5.30	Year 5/6 Basketball Tournament	Basketball Team
2.3.20	All Day	Year 3 to British Museum	Year 3
3.3.20	a.m.	Bishop of St Albans visiting	Children & Staff
5.3.20	All Day	School Photographs	Children & younger siblings
5.3.20	All Day	World Book Day	Children & Staff
6.3.20	All Day	Book Character Dress up day	Children & Staff
8.3.20	p.m.and evening	Royal Albert Hall Schools' Gala	Children selected, parents, Mrs Foster & Mrs Pollard
12.3.20	12 – 3.00	Year 4 Tennis (SFT)	Year 4 tennis team

Date	Time	Event	People involved
17.3.20	All day	Year 1 to House on the Hill Toy Museum & Mount Fitchet castle.	Year 1
17.3.20	7.00 p.m.	Governors' Meeting	Governors
19.3.20	All day	Year 5 to St. Albans' Cathedral – Saxon Workshop	Year 5
20.3.20	a.m.	PTFA Mothering Sunday Shopping	PTFA, children and parent helpers
23.3.20	All Day	Science Week	Children, staff and volunteers
25.3.20	2.30 – 5.30	Year 5/6 Hockey tournament	Hockey team
31.3.20	a.m.	Talent Show	Children & Staff
1.4.20	5.30 – 7.00 p.m.	PTFA Disco	PTFA & children
1.4.20	All Day	Year 2 trip to Woburn	Year 2 children and staff
2.4.20	All day & Evening	Stevenage Dance Festival	Dance Team and accompanying staff
3.4.20	a.m.	Easter Service	Children & Staff
3.4.20	2.15 p.m.	Term Ends	Everyone!

Summer Term 2020

Date	Time	Event	People involved
20.4.20	All day	INSET Day	Staff
21.4.20	8.55	Term Starts for children	Everyone!
23.4.20	All day	Reception to Beckonscot Model Village	Reception
23.4.20-24.4.20	All day	Year 4 Residential	Year 4, Mrs Mesher, Mrs Henderson & Mrs Pollard
1.5.20	9.15 a.m.	May Day Assembly	Children, Staff and families
6.5.20	2.30 – 5.00	Year 4 Tri-golf tournament	Team & Mel
6.5.20	7 p.m.	Governors' Meeting	Governors
7.5.20	12.15 - 3.15	Maypole Dancing – Living Crafts	Maypole & Sword dancers, Mrs Mesher, Mrs Pollard & volunteer parents
8.5.20	All Day	Bank Holiday	Everyone!
11.5.20-14.5.20	All day	SATS week	Year 6 children & staff
16.5.20	11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.	May Day Madness	PTFA & Families
18.5.20	All day	Maths Week	Children & Staff
20.5.20	All day	Bell Boat Racing	Year 4 children & staff
20.5.20	All day	Year 6 to Harry Potter World	Year 6 children & staff
21.5.20	All day	Dragon Boat Racing	Year 6 children & staff
25.5.20		Half Term	

Date	Time	Event	People involved
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2.6.20	All day	Maths Funfair	Children & staff
3.6.20	All day	Maths Funfair	Children & staff
4.6.20	All Day	Year 4 – 6 Athletics Festival	Athletics team & staff
4.6.20	8.30 – 10.00	PTFA breakfast & sponsored walk	Everyone
5.6.20	All day	INSET day	Everyone
8.6.20	All day	Phonics Test Screening Week	Year 1 children & Staff
8.6.20	All day	Year 4 times tables check – 3 week window opens	Year 4 children & Staff
8.6.20 – 10.6.20	All day	Year 5 Residential	Year 5, Mrs Gloyn & Mrs Pollard
11.6.20	TBC	Year 6 Cricket festival	Cricket team & Mel
15.6.20 19.6.20	All day	Isle of Wight	Year 6 children, Mr Browne, Mrs Abrahams & Mrs Mansell
23.6.20	7.00 p.m.	Governors' Meeting	Governors
24.6.20	1.00 – 3.00	Year 4 Rounders Tournament	Rounders Team & Mel
25.6.20	1.00 -4.00	Year 5/6 Ultimate Frisbee	Frisbee team & Mel
27.6.20	6.30 – 10.00	PTFA Summer Do!	Everyone!
30.6.20	p.m.	Image Musical Theatre	Children & staff
2.7.20	12.30– 5.00	Year 5/6 Rounders	Rounders Team & Mel
7.7.20	2-6	Netball Tournament	Netball team & Mrs Mesher
9.7.20	All Day	Moving up day	Year 6 out
9.7.20	5.30 – 7.00	Open Evening	Everyone
13.7.20	a.m.	Music Club Stress Rehearsal	Children & staff
14.7.20	a.m.	Music Club Dress Rehearsal	Children & staff
16.7.20	7.00 p.m.	Music Club Production	Music Club & families
17.7.20	7.00 p.m.	Music Club Production	Music Club & families
18.7.20	12.30 onwards	Village Day	Everyone
20.7.20	9.15 a.m.	Sports Day – Nursery – Year 2	Children, staff & families
	1.30 p.m.	Sports Day – Year 3 – Year 6	Children, staff & families
21.7.20	9.45 a.m.	Leavers' Service	Children, staff & Year 6 families
21.7.20	1.10 p.m.	Year 6 Courtyard farewell!	Everyone Welcome
	1.45 p.m.	Term Ends	Everyone