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Newsletter November 23rd 2018

View from the Head's Study

We decided to put a more positive spin on anti-bullying week by instead encouraging and celebrating kindness, and having a kindness week. In the assembly on Monday 19th I told the children Aesop's fable of the mouse and the lion, and how an act of kindness from the lion was returned one day by the mouse. I also reminded the children how we would finish the week by taking part in Children In Need day, and how our kindness and generosity on that day would help other less fortunate children.

We aim to identify and celebrate acts of kindness each week by adding the names of children who have demonstrated kindness to paper leaves on the artificial tree in the foyer. A scrapbook adjacent to the tree will be used to record the more remarkable acts of kindness and generosity throughout the week. The children will be asked to consider how they can be kinder to others around them in their lives: classmates, family, school staff. As adults it is obviously important that we model kindness and kind words to children.

Attendance

We have just received our attendance data for this term so far from Somerset County:

- Overall Attendance is higher than the county average.
- Persistent Absence is lower than the county average.

This is a very positive indicator and demonstrates how you as parents appreciate the importance of children being in school. Obviously there will be times when your child is ill, but we appreciate the effort that parents are making in trying to book medical and dental appointments outside of school hours when possible, and respecting that holidays should not be taken in school time. There is a very clear connection between school attendance and academic performance, so thank you again for your support.

School Education Partner

Our SEP (School Education Partner) visited last week for a morning, and spent some time in each class. Almost every school in Somerset has two visits a year from a SEP, and at the moment we are receiving termly visits which is helpful in getting us back on track. At the end of the visit the SEP reported that:

- There was a calm purposeful learning atmosphere across the school. In all classes children were attentive and could talk about the work they were doing. They were focused well on their learning.
- Pupils were able to explain their work and also to show work they were proud of.

The SEP also mentioned that she felt that the children's behaviour was good, and that where very occasionally it was less than that, staff in the school reminded them and the children responded appropriately.

Football

The following boys took part in a football tournament in Taunton last week: Charlie Thorne, Charlie Mellor, Ben Pursey, Peter Lonsdale-Eccles, Daniel Savage-Bailey, Johnny Martin, Levi Jackson, Jake Perry, Zak Doherty, Jacob Cook. They played 6 matches; winning one, drawing 2 and narrowly losing three.

As a team of children who hadn't played together before as an actual team they worked really hard. They collaborated, communicated and showed great team spirit. They were good sportsmen and didn't let their heads drop when a decision went against them. There was no arguing when they were subbed, and they were brilliantly behaved. It was a pleasure to be pitch-side. Joint boys of the tournament were Charlie Thorne and Charlie Mellor for their pure grit and determination in every game they played. Well done boys!

Mrs Goodman



This is a photo of the Accelerated Reader Books we bought for the library. The money, £1960, was raised by the Co Op Good Causes scheme and donated to the library by the PTFA.

If you haven't yet signed up, please see the PTFA section of this newsletter on how to join. Thank you.

Angel Express Nativity

Parents and Carers of our KS1 and Reception children, you are invited to our nativity 'Angel Express'. There are two performances **Tuesday 18th December at 1:45pm and Wednesday 19th December at 9:30am.**

Each family can collect two tickets from the office. Tickets will be available from **Monday 3rd December.** If we have left over tickets we will let parents know so that additional members of the family can come along.

Class teachers will be sending out separate letters with information about casting and costumes.



Parking in Tucker's Meadow

Please can I remind parents to be considerate to the residents of Tucker's Meadow, if parking there at the start or end of the school day?

Some of the residents are being considerably inconvenienced by parked cars blocking access to their parking spaces, and the drivers of those cars refusing to move even when politely asked. Pointing out that the school has been here since 1876 is of no comfort when you have a medical appointment to make, or are trying to help your wheelchair-bound spouse through all the parked traffic to your front door and then discover that a car has parked across the dropped kerb. The Highway Code rule 243 clearly states that drivers should not park "where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles". Parking a vehicle across a dropped kerb is classed as an obstruction and either the police or local councils can enforce the contravention with a fixed penalty notice. Based on the resources a local authority has in dealing with the contravention, particular attention will typically be allocated to offences that impede the passage of those with disabilities.

I hope that all of us would agree that our elderly residents deserve consideration at their time of life, I'm sure we would expect the same if we were them.

Christmas Lights

Congratulations to:

- Heidi Wilkinson Oak Class
- Paulina Obodzinska Maple class
- Trudie Blaker Larch class
- Fynn Lambert Chestnut Class

These children will be turning on the Christmas Lights in Wiveliscombe Square on 30th November.

Safeguarding

As you will already be aware, we ask all visitors (including parents) during school hours to sign in the visitor book and wear a visitor badge.

With safeguarding being one of our priorities, and to reduce interruptions to both teachers/children in class and office staff during the school day, this is a reminder for parents and carers to only pop in to school if it is absolutely necessary, for example, drop off/collect child for medical appointment.

With this in mind, we request that parents carefully read letters/emails and ensure your child(ren) remember to bring P.E. kits, lunch boxes, coats etc. with them to school at the beginning of the day. As previously stated, if your child has forgotten to bring the necessary items of clothing required for the day such as P.E. kit, outdoor clothing, unfortunately, they will not be able to participate in that session and it will not be possible for them to phone parents to request they drop it in to school later that day. In the case of PE kits we have always suggested that children have their kits in school from Monday to Friday, and are taken home weekly/fortnightly for washing.

If it is a packed lunch that your child(ren) has forgotten, of course you are able to drop it in for them, although we do request this is kept to a minimum. It will then be kept in the Office for either your child or class teaching assistant to collect it during the day.

Zumba

Mrs Kneeshaw would like to apologise for having to cancel the last two weeks of Zumba. Unfortunately due to the Christmas Fair the 7th Dec will have to be cancelled and the 21st Dec the last



ZUMBA
FITNESS

Ice Cream Sales

A big thank you from Ash and Maple class to everyone who bought ice-creams at the ice-cream sale. We raised an amazing £180 to put towards a rug for both classes and the PTFA have kindly agreed to put the rest of the money towards them.



PTFA News and Events

Christmas Fair – 7/12/18

The school Christmas fair will be held from 3.15pm – 4.45pm on Friday 7th December in the main hall and Beech classroom. There will be lots of festive stalls and Father Christmas will hopefully be dropping in.

Christmas Hampers

Thanks to those parents/carers that have already donated to the Christmas hampers. The deadline for donations is **Friday 30th November**.

You should have already received hamper raffle tickets via your child. If you would like any more tickets please contact a member of the PTFA.

The Christmas hamper draw will take place on **Wednesday 19th December** at 3pm.

Bags 2 School Collection 27/11/18

Please remember to bring your bags to school on Tuesday 27 November. This is an easy way to raise money for the school, so if you can, please leave your donations next to the PTFA shed first thing.

Next PTFA Meeting @The Bear Inn Skittle Alley 13/12/18 – Everyone welcome

Co-op Good Causes

The PTFA has been selected as a co-op good cause until October 2019. This is a great opportunity for us to raise funds so please could everyone update their co-op good cause details please. The funds raised will go towards ICT equipment for the school, so if you don't have a card and would like one please pop into the Wiveliscombe store and pick up a leaflet.

Easyfundraising

Thanks to everyone that has already signed up to this. With Christmas coming it's the ideal opportunity for extra pennies to be raised. Follow the link below to sign up.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wiveliscombecpsptfa/>

Dates for your Diary

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| • 27 th November 18 PTFA shed | Bags to School collection |
| • 28 th November 18 | Flu Vaccinations Rec/Year 1 |
| • 30 th November 18 | Hamper Donations to be in |
| • 5 th December 18 Kingsmead | Year 2 Festival Kingsmead |
| • 7 th December 18 3:15 in the Hall | Christmas Fair |
| • 13 th December 18 7:45 Bear Skittle Alley | Next PTFA meeting |
| • 14 th December 18 Church | Rehearsal KS2 Carol Service |
| • 17 th December 18 Church | KS2 Carol Service |
| • 18 th December 18 1:45 in the Hall | KS1 Nativity |
| • 19 th December 18 9:30 in the Hall | KS1 Nativity |
| • 19 th December 18 3pm | Christmas Hamper Draw |
| • 21 st December 18 | Last Day of Term |