**Headteacher Update**

**Friday 12th January 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. We hope you enjoyed a lovely break over the festive season.

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week, especially as we have had lots of new resources to share with them including new OPAL and PE equipment and brand new resources for our reception classroom, which staff worked hard to organise and set up on during our INSET day on Monday.

**OPAL**

Mrs O’Neill held an assembly on Tuesday morning to share with the children our wonderful new resources for OPAL, which they will be able to enjoy during their lunchtime playtimes. Along with our fab new sandpit, we now have a set of pedal bikes and scooters for children to use on the track. We also have lots of new ‘small world’ toys and we have created zones for different types of play on both playgrounds. We continue to enjoy working on the OPAL project and making playtimes more exciting for the children. It is important to us that there is equipment to cater for all children’s interests, so we will continue to develop our playtime provision as we move forward.

We would very much like to develop our large play/ building area and we are in need of large plastic bread crates and wooden pallets. We have reached out to a number of local businesses to ask for items that might no longer be used, but none have been able to help. If you know of any business that might be able to donate items such as these, please get in touch with Mrs O’Neill.

**Reception Class**

We have been thrilled to install new furniture and resources in the reception classroom, which looks beautiful. The children were very excited when they arrived on Tuesday morning to find a new, cosy reading area and building area, along with new carpets, tables and chairs and lots of play resources to ignite the children’s imaginations. Look out for photos on our Facebook page!

**Attendance**

We still have lots of winter bugs and viruses around, but hopefully a good rest over the two-week break has helped many of us to shake off any lingering germs. It has been great to see the majority of children return appearing fighting fit and ready for the term ahead.

Please remember that the gate is open from 8.30am each morning and will be closed promptly at 8.45am when children should be in their classrooms ready for registration.

We will re-introduce our class attendance competition from next week, our first full week in school.

**World Book Day**

We will be celebrating National World Book Day on Thursday 7th March and the children will be allowed to come to school dressed as a favourite book character. Please look out for more details as we approach the date.

In the meantime, our local public libraries will be offering World Book Day fancy dress swaps from 1 February to 6 March. Costumes can be donated to Barnton, Blacon, Frodsham, Hope Farm, Lache, Little Sutton, Neston, Northwich, Sandiway and Wharton libraries during the duration of the scheme. Anyone can then see what is available and take what is needed for their child, no donation needed.

*A message from the library service:*

*“Do your bit to help save the environment and money this year, by donating unwanted World Book Day fancy dress costumes at Barnton, Blacon, Frodsham, Hope Farm, Lache, Little Sutton, Neston, Northwich, Sandiway and Wharton libraries. Donated costumes will be quickly checked and put out for those who need them (no donation or payment required) from Thursday 1 February to Wednesday 6 March. And, while you’re there, make sure to get a library card, no ID required, or take out a book.”*

**Parents’ Evenings – save the dates!**

We will hold parents’ evenings on Tuesday 19th March and Thursday 21st March. Please look out for more information nearer the time. Parents of children who are on our SEN register will, once again, be offered an additional appointment to meet with our SENCO, Mrs O’Neill.

**Year 6**

Our Year 6 hoodies have arrived! The children are thrilled with their leavers’ hoodies, which have been paid for by Friends of Leftwich Primary School. Thank you! Children may wear their new tops on Mondays and Fridays.

**Help with budgeting**

Vale Royal Housing are running a series of fun, friendly and informal workshops in the café area of the **church from Tuesday 16th January, straight after school drop off.**   The aim of the sessions is to enable people to gain new skills and knowledge around their spending and budgeting. We have already delivered this in several primary schools locally and it has worked well.

*A message from Lyn who will has organised the workshops:*

*‘We welcome everyone to our workshops; we have had participants from the age of 19-94! People are very welcome to bring friends, relatives, neighbours, and babies in pushchairs. Everything is free; the sessions are very supportive and non-judgemental- we certainly don’t expect people to share any personal things.*

*We cover a wide range of sessions including- shopping and cooking on a budget, reducing your utility bills, writing a household budget that works, shopping safely on the internet, how to improve your credit score and address debt, days out on a budget, DIY on a budget and many more!’*

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| **Event** | **Date** | **Time** | **Classes involved** |
| Valentines Disco  | Wednesday 14th February | TBC | Separate infants and juniors |
| London visit | Thurs 8th Feb – Fri 9th Feb |  | Year 6 |
| Break up for half term | Friday 16th February | 3.15pm | All classes |
| World Book Day | Thursday 7th March  | All day | All classes |
| Parents’ Evenings | Tuesday 19th March | After school | All classes |
| Parents’ Evenings  | Thursday 21st March  | After school  | All classes |
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