**Headteacher Update**

**Friday 17th October 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have continued to focus on ‘respect’ which is one of our core values. We began the week by wearing odd socks for Anti-bullying week, to show that we are all unique and special and we must respect and celebrate our individuality.

On Monday Mrs Guy led an assembly to officially, and finally, open our sandpit to children. She shared rules for using the sandpit to ensure everyone remains safe. We would like to send a huge thank you to David Pilgrim whose company installed our amazing sandpit.

On Wednesday I led an assembly and talked to the children about showing respect for our environment, especially the resources and equipment in school. We are encouraging the children to take better care of our OPAL toys and to look after the resources in our classrooms.

**Year 5 Class Assembly**

This morning we thoroughly enjoyed the year 5 class assembly. They shared some of their learning from this term, including some beautiful, creative writing linked to the text about Henry Brown, who bravely escaped being enslaved. They also showed off their French speaking (and singing) skills and talked about their lantern making workshop. What a busy term they have had so far! Well done year 5, for a super sharing assembly, and thank you to all the grown-ups who joined us this morning.

As has become tradition, our year 5 class will take part in the lantern parade for the Northwich Christmas Light Switch on, on Saturday 25th December. We hope to see lots of you there supporting us as we go!

**Go Team Leftwich!**

We have achieved great success in inter-school competitions recently. Both our basket ball and netball teams won their competitions recently, coming first place out of 5 schools. Our hockey team did us proud too and, although they weren’t the winners, they were certainly top in our eyes for their sportsmanship and team spirit, showing great resilience and support for one another throughout.

On Thursday evening our team of year 6 mathematicians won the maths challenge competition at the high school – what super stars! Finally, today our Boccia and Curling team made us all proud when they took part in the festival which was held at St Nicholas’ school in Northwich, winning at least two of their games.

We are incredibly proud of them all, well done Team Leftwich!

**Year 1 Family Lunch**

I apologise for any confusion caused when the wrong dates were added to last week’s newsletter for our year 1 family lunch week. Our year 1 parents and guardians have been invited to book in for a lunch with their child next week on either Tuesday, Wedenesday or Thursday. We hope that lots of you can join us!

**Christmas Jumper Swap and Coffee Afternoon**

We would like to invite you all along to our Christmas jumper / outfit swap afternoon, next Thursday from 2.25pm onwards.

Each year we invite children to wear festive wear on our Christmas jumper day and for the last day of term. If you have Christmas jumpers and tops that no longer fit your children, and you would like to donate them towards this event then please send them into the office from Monday 20th November. Please make sure all donations/ swap items are brought to school by the morning of Thursday 23rd so we can sort the clothes ready for the afternoon.

You don’t have to have donated clothing to take part in this event. We will welcome anyone who would like to come along and take advantage of items on offer. So please join us to enjoy a coffee or a cup of tea and a biscuit. Feel free to bring along little ones too!

**‘Tis the season… for coughs and colds!!!**

The season for coughs and colds has well and truly arrived since we returned from our half term break. Many members of staff, including myself, are parents of young children so we do understand that playing the ‘tough parent’ and sending children into school when they’re feeling under the weather can be hard on our emotions. But we also know that most children who have common cold symptoms soon pick up when they see their friends and they have their minds occupied on other things. We encourage you all to send children in and ‘see how they go’ rather than keep them at home ‘just in case’ - a dose of Calpol always seems to do wonders! We promise we will always phone parents if children are too unwell to be in school.

**Key Stage 2 Christingle Service**

This year our key stage 2 children will perform in a Christingle Service at Emmanuel Church, to celebrate a traditional Christmas. We would like to invite parents to join us for this event on Thursday 14th December at 1.30pm. We will send out more details in the coming weeks, but please save the date. Parents will be invited into school to help the children decorate their Christingle oranges, to take to the service.

**Attendance**

Well done to Reception class, who have won our attendance competition this week with 98%.

*Attendance for the week:*

Reception: 98%

Year 1: 95%

Year 2: 94%

Year 3: 95%

Year 4: 91%

Year 5: 93%

Year 6: 97%

*Whole school attendance for the year so far is 93.3%*

**Dates for your Diaries: Please keep an eye on this dates list as it will become increasingly busy in the weeks leading up to Christmas.**

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| **Event** | **Date** | **Time** | **Classes involved** |
| Year 5 Class Assembly | Friday 17th November 2023 | 9.15am | Year 5 parents |
| Year 1 Family Lunch Week | Tuesday 14th, Wedensday 15th, Thursday 16th November | 12pm | Year 1 parents |
| Christmas Jumper Swap and coffee afternoon | Thursday 23rd November 2023 | 2.25pm | All year groups |
| Infant Play Dress Rehearsal | Monday 11th December 2023 | 1.30pm  | Reception, year 1, year 2 parents/ grandparents |
| Infant Christmas Play | Tuesday 12th December 2023 | 6pm | 2 tickets per child will be issued – Reception, year 1, year 2 parents/ guardians |
| Christmas Lunch Day | Wednesday 13th December  | 12pm | All classes |
| Christingle Service | Thursday 14th December  | 1.30pm | Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 |
| Finish for Christmas | Thursday 21st December  | 3.15pm | All classes |

We hope you all have a lovely weekend,

Kind regards,

Mrs C Harrison and Mrs L Guy