

Mrs Marriott's December Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to thank you for your support and feedback this year. I have now been at Hemingford Grey Primary School for nearly a year and I absolutely love it! The children are fantastic and I love to walk around and see how focussed they are whilst learning and I equally enjoy chatting to them at lunchtimes in the hall and outside.

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and look forward to 2020!

Mrs Marriott



Community

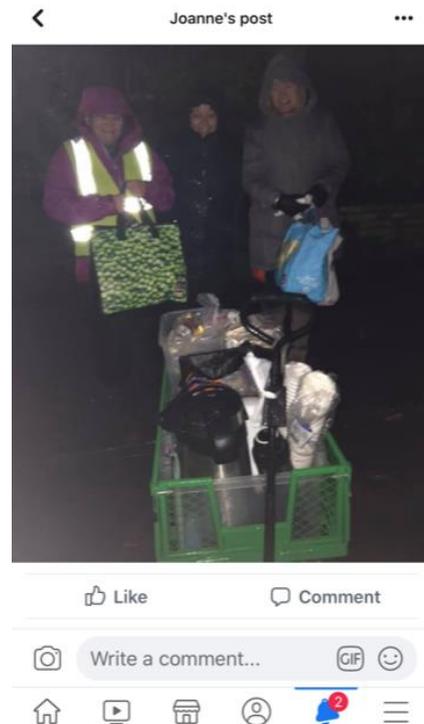
We have worked hard to engage more with our community this term and have some great news to share.

The Champions of Change have done a fantastic job of supporting the United Nations Global Goal of Zero Hunger by organising a Non-Uniform Day to fundraise for food, which they shared with the homeless. Caring for Cambridgeshire's Homeless yesterday received a huge quantity of food which The Champions of Change spent part of their morning making. This is the message sent by the charity to us afterwards:

"Wow, I can't thank you enough for the amazing food. Tonight we were able to feed over 30 very cold, wet and hungry people. Not only that we took the left overs fresh food to Jimmy's Night Shelter and they were amazed with it and said it would all get eaten. I can share the crisps and chocolates etc with the other leads for our next night out on the streets. Tonight you and your children have helped us spread a little kindness to people who really needed it. Thank you so much!"

They also posted on their Facebook Page - Caring for Cambridgeshire's Homeless:

So a few weeks ago we were contacted from Hemingford Grey primary school to say they would like to donate the food for tonight's visit to the streets. The children had a dress down day and raised £200 to buy the ingredients to make sandwiches, cakes, sausage rolls, crisps, chocolate, and biscuits. One of the lovely teachers turned up with the biggest pile of food I've ever seen!!! We were able to feed over 30 people tonight and still had lots left over to give to Jimmy's on our way home! It was a wet cold night but we were so blown away with the kindness of the teachers and children it helped us on way round!! We also came home with the car full of crisps, chocolates and biscuits for future nights out- thank you so much to all of the children and teachers - tonight you helped us spread a little kindness!! Thank you also to **Val Manning, Lisa Howes and Diane Gaskin** x



We focussed on community the week prior to half term and collected items for the St. Ives and Godmanchester Foodbanks. This led to working with other local schools to have a permanent foodbank collection point at school which sits in our front entrance. It was full in the first few days of November after lots of donations and after two of our community spirited pupils collected food instead of sweets when trick or treating - we are so proud of their generous spirit! Amazingly, the basket has refilled again and will be collected before the end of term. In total as a school, we have made three donations to the foodbank this term and look forward to continuing this next term.

Our Year 6 choir members joined the community group of 'Memory Lane' in the Hemingford Grey Reading Rooms last week to sing Christmas Songs to the visitors which was wonderful. After the singing there were opportunities for intergenerational chatting which benefitted everyone there.

We continue to have a very supportive community who support us with outdoor learning. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all our volunteers who give up time on a regular basis to support learning in school. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

The Church and Open the Book members continue to join us half termly in assembly to share stories and performances which the children always enjoy.

The Hemingfords Pantomime - Jack and his (wilted) Beanstalk will take place in the spring. Thank you to everyone who has sent in pictures for the competition. The closing date is Monday 16th, so there is still time for last minute entries. Some of the cast will visit us during assembly in February to share a little scene from the Pantomime.

Productions

Foundation Stage and KS1 have shared their fantastic performances and have impressed every audience with their superb singing and acting. We have been very proud of them all!

Safety Newsletter

Thank you to all parents and carers who have read and supported the expectations in the safety newsletter. We have noticed that not everyone follows the expectations and we have received feedback from concerned parents and carers who continue to see people cutting through the carpark and parking without care outside the school. We have reminded people to stay safe and encourage you to work with us and remind each other if you see anyone not prioritising the pupils' safety. As a follow up, the gates which access the Playgroup staff carpark will be closed to prevent misuse. If you see cars parked dangerously outside of school, we have been advised by the police that community members should directly call 101 with a registration number of the vehicle.

Sporting achievements

We have taken part in many football fixtures over the term in which we have performed well and won the cup for medium sized schools in the local area. We are keen to celebrate sporting achievement from school and home. If your child wishes to share any achievement, do send in pictures or trophies as we are creating a board especially to celebrate being active and healthy.

Staffing

Mrs Smith will be reducing her teaching commitment with us after Christmas and whilst she will continue to teach Y3/4 on a Friday, Miss Symons will teach her class in Y5/6 for the spring term on a Monday.

Anti-bullying week

In November we focussed on Anti-bullying week with the theme, 'Change Starts with Us', whilst wearing our odd socks!

The children explored the meaning of the word bully. We looked at how to manage occasions when others are rude, mean or unkind and how to recognise when situations may have escalated to bullying through repeated and targeted incidents. Using the theme, Change Starts with Us, we moved to thinking about how we can make a difference each day by choosing to say or do something kind.

In a recent capture of pupil voice across the school, the pupils shared that 'happiness' and 'friendship' were most important to them at school.

Lunchtimes

We will be talking to the children in the New Year about lunchtime and how to make them more fun, whilst supporting the important social skills that occur during this part of the day. The main feedback from pupils so far is that they prefer access to the field all year round, rather than just the summer term. This does mean the children sometimes get a bit muddy, so we are looking to have a storage section built outside so that pupils can bring alternative outdoor footwear. We will keep you updated about any changes to lunchtime once the project with the children is complete.

Aspens, the catering company who provide our meals, have had some changes in staff recently. They shared food in a promotional event on Tuesday after school and as a school we have seen a big improvement in meal quality and portion size in recent weeks. Jodie will join us in January, who some of you will have met on Tuesday, whilst a permanent cook is recruited by Aspens for the school. Christmas lunch was superb today and the children enjoyed singing along to lots of Christmas songs.

Growth Mindset and 7Rs

We have worked since the start of term on re-visiting the school ethos. We have worked with children to collect their voice about how they use a growth mindset to support their learning. We found we often talked about responsibility, but it wasn't one of the 6Rs, so now we have 7Rs: Resourceful, Risk Taking, Resilient, Respect, Reflective, Relationships and also Responsibility.

Fundraising

I would like to thank you for your generosity this term in supporting a variety of fundraising.

Poppy Appeal - we raised £96.70

Children in Need - we raised £343.20

Champions of Change - we raised £228

Christmas Fayre - we raised an amazing £1180.86

Save the Children Jumper Day - we raised £152.56

House Points

The children have been collecting House Points all term and these are announced in assembly on a Friday. The children collect House Points for demonstrating Growth Mindset and the 7Rs. The totals for the end of the Autumn Term are:

St. Edmund	Pembroke	Wolfson	Downing
1906	1601	2077	1608
What amazing totals to celebrate!			

