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6th November 2020 – End of Week 8 - Autumn Newsletter #10

Dear Parents,

This week we have been focussing on celebrating differences in assembly and during class time to help see what is special in each other.

There is lots of exciting work going on in classes. Have a look at how Year 2 children have been getting stuck into [learning about place value](#) in their continuous provision this week. Have a look in the Computing Blog to see how Year 5 Willow Class has been enjoying [programming disco lights](#). Willow has also been using the [Cuisenaire in their Maths](#) lessons which you can see in the Maths Blog.

Despite the new routines for school life that we operate in, celebrations for Harvest took place before half term. Have a look in our SMSC Blog to see and read all about [Year 1s' Harvest soup](#). In this blog you can also see the amazing [poppy art work done by Year 6](#) ahead of Sunday's socially distanced doorstep remembrance. Read about the significance of the different coloured poppies to maybe discover some new learning yourselves.

We have now received the final letter from Ofsted about their visit in October as part of their fact finding into the impact of the pandemic on schools. I have uploaded it to the Ofsted section of our website under the 'About the School' section for your information; [quick link here](#).

Congratulations to Mrs Pike who has just been awarded a Post Graduate Certificate in Therapeutic Play Skills (APAC), achieved with a *distinction*. For those of you who don't know, Mrs Pike has been working on this for the last 2 years. It recognises her expertise and qualification in helping young children with counselling through play. St Margaret's is very lucky to have Mrs Pike and her skills helping our pupils. Star of the week to Mrs Pike!

Next Friday, 13th November is Children in Need. In support of this we making this a non-uniform day when your children could wear something spotty or with a rainbow and bring in a suggested donation of £1.

Amazing Young People

I'm always amazed at the children in our school. They always brighten up our days with their enthusiasm and resilience. Mrs Pike and I love to see them all on the school gate when they arrive each day. They are taking this entire pandemic in their stride and enjoying coming to school to learn and play with their friends. It's always especially wonderful when you find out about their talents, achievements and contributions which you can get a flavour of when you read about the stars below. One special big-up I would like to give this week is to Isabelle in Year 5 whose suggestion to the kitchen has led to a change to the new school menu. Now you can all see what the desert option is each day thanks to Isabelle!

Breakfast and After School Club

We sympathise with how frustrating it is for parents trying to balance their working and childcare commitments during this difficult time. Because of this, we are continuing with the Breakfast Club and After School Club provision at this time, but unfortunately have had to reduce the hours of provision. The Breakfast Club will be available from 8.00 a.m.-8.45 a.m. daily and After School Club will finish at 5.00 p.m. The reason for the reduction in provision is that these clubs are self-funded and although numbers have reduced at the

moment the level of staffing has increased. This is because we have to have separate staffing for Foundation/KS1 children and staffing for KS2 children. This reduction in hours will enable us to manage our staffing costs more effectively and hopefully keep the clubs open in the future.

Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club will have their own telephone number from Monday 9th November which is 07783607282 if you need to speak to them. Please note that you will not be able to contact these clubs out of normal school hours. The main office is manned between 8.15 a.m. until 4.15 p.m. for phone calls. We are sorry for the inconvenience and will continually monitor and revise the situation.

Moving into the New Lockdown

In a briefing with Public Health and Torbay this week, I was told that this new lockdown is coming at a good time for Torbay as rates of infection have risen steadily in September and October. The good news is this lockdown is anticipated to slow infection rates and then reduce them towards the end of the month, and that any new infections will be better contained because of the lockdown.

As rates have risen, the likelihood of symptoms being positive has increased. Therefore from now onwards anybody with symptoms (pupils or staff) who share a house with a confirmed case will be assumed to be positive. This is not government policy; it is a local decision taken by Torbay from Tuesday this week. This increases the likelihood of us having a partial lockdown in school but will help prevent onward spread. It is really important that we know from now on when any children first display symptoms. Please inform us if your child gets symptoms when they are in the middle of isolating if there is a positive case in your house.

Any measures we can take will always help. To this end please consider carefully who drops off and collects your children during lockdown. It will certainly help if you can ensure it is only family members, preferably those who live at home, and that you don't collect and drop off children from other families if at all possible.

One of the big messages Public Health want to get out there is about the behaviour of young people during lockdown. It appears that adolescents and young people up to the age of 29 are the main cause for the increase in infections. Please do whatever you can to ensure they follow the rules and social distance. Please see the letter sent out on Wednesday from the Director of Public Health which you can also find on our website; [quick link here](#).

Keeping classrooms as ventilated as possible is something teachers are currently trying to do as there's evidence that the virus doesn't linger in such conditions. While we will obviously be balancing this as best as possible with keeping everybody warm in the winter months, please do send your child in everyday with warm clothing, jumper and coat.

Key message: don't get Covid fatigue – now is the time to double down.

The government guidance for what parents need to know about schools during the pandemic was updated over half term. If you would like to read it, here's a [quick link](#).

Road Traffic Accident Appeal

On Thursday morning at drop off there was a traffic accident. One staff member's car was hit but the driver did not leave their details. Please can I appeal to you to come forward and contact the office. Thank you.

Have a lovely wintry weekend.



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)



Attendance Stars –for 6th November 2020



Whole school for this half term: 97.3% (end year school target is 96%)

The national percentage for primary schools in England is 92% so we're doing well. Thank you to all parents for supporting with attendance during these challenging times.

Class attendance star this week is Rowan Class with 99% - that means just 1 more class star needed for a Rowan non-uniform day. Well done Rowans.

Individual stars of the week...

Beech	Raya for being a true role model not just to Beech Class but to the whole school. She demonstrates all of our core values every day, she is always ready to have a go at jobs, she listens carefully and is growing in confidence to answer questions during whole class teaching sessions - well done you!
Pine	Ruby- for her dedication and perseverance when it comes to her junk modelling We love your creativity Ruby!
Oak	Ava- for spreading her positive attitude around the class, making everyone smile and laugh. She has also impressed us with her effort when writing about fireworks. Well done Ava!
Apple	Lily F has been a star this week. Making the right decisions to help develop her learning and for being responsible both in school and when going home - well done Lily.
Birch	Toby - For always being such a positive and motivated member of Birch class and always having a smile on your face that lights up everyone's day!
Rowan	Sophia Ho - for really giving 100% in everything all week. Well done for your fantastic attitude to learning and working hard in all subjects!
Cherry	Dylan for his wonderful concentration in lessons and the fabulous contributions he makes during our learning activities. He shows great aspiration and is keen to continue his learning at home completing extra work and projects which the class really enjoy seeing. Well done Dylan.
Hazel	Charlie Murray - Charlie has made such a big effort to improve his learning behaviours around in class lately. He has shown a great level of maturity and should be very proud of what he has achieved. Well done Charlie.
Willow	Erin - this week Erin has exceeded my expectations in each task she has completed. Her effort in her lessons is fabulous and she is producing some lovely pieces of work - well done Erin!
Holly	Ben - for excellent contributions to our class discussions during PHSCE lessons this week. His ideas were well-thought out, sensitive and really thought-provoking.
Maple	Alana - for showing outstanding commitment and responsibility for her learning. You have really gone the extra mile to practise and improve and are making excellent progress, especially in maths. What a brilliant role model you are!
Hawthorn	Ashton- you are a wonderful role model for our year group. You approach each task with a fantastic effort, and share your ideas brilliantly with the class. I know that everyone appreciates your kind and respectful manner. Well done!