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Executive Headteacher: Mrs RM West

Head of Schools : Mrs V Brown

Term 2 2020-2021 – Week 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the last newsletter of the term and I would like to say a huge thank you for your cooperation in helping us through these first 2 terms. It makes a massive difference when we support one another and to have all the children return to school and engage in learning is a great feat. We have also been incredibly fortunate that we have not had to close a group/ bubble. We appreciate that this could happen at any time and are ready to provide online learning the following day should we need to do this.

We have an exciting last week planned for the children with lots of learning through a Christmas theme. They also have a virtual panto to watch and some classes are having a Christmas party as they have either filled their marble jar or are just getting into the festive spirit, details for these will come out via the class teachers.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, stay safe and have fun. We will start our new term on **Tuesday 5th January**.



ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Underwater and High Peaks for their attendance of 100 % last week and again to Underwater and High Peaks for their attendance of 100% this week. Please note that any children self-isolating do not affect our attendance as they are recorded as learning from home.

We have 100% attendance across the school today which is fabulous.

We hope you all received our email regarding attendance next week, please let the school office know if you haven't seen it.

REWARDS

Congratulations to the following children who have received their next Pupil Point certificates.

100 Points – Underwater – Henry – Georgie - Martha

200 Points – Underwater – Ben – Jungle – Eaton

700 Points – Bugs - Nancy

1000 Points – High Peaks- Dora

SUPPORT AND FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We are aware that the impact of Covid this year may have affected many of our families in terms of jobs and money coming in. We are here to offer support if anyone needs anything so please just ask. You can contact the school office and any help or advice can be given in confidence.

Some of you may be eligible for free school meals. This means that your child can receive a free meal at school. You can do this if you receive any of the following benefits:

[Universal Credit](#) – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

[Income Support](#)

Income-based [Jobseekers Allowance](#)

Income-related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)

Support under [Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)

The Guaranteed element of State [Pension Credit](#)

Diary

December

11th Christmas Jumper Day

15th High Peaks Performance

18th – End of Term

January

4th – INSET

5th – Children return to school

February

12th – Last day of term

22nd – Children return to school

Child Tax Credit only, if your annual household income (assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) isn't over £16,190. **Anyone getting Working Tax Credit won't get free meals regardless of income**
Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

Children eligible for free school meals on or after 1 April 2018 will remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2023 even if your circumstances change. The school also receives additional funding to support your child in their learning and this can be used to help with resources, uniform, trips e.t.c.

The process is not taking very long at the moment and can all be done on online. See link for further information and the application form.

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/school-life/meals/free/>

ECO UPDATE

The school is in full Christmas swing with tinsel and baubles as far as the eye can see! I had so many applications for the Eco Warrior positions it was unbelievable and the quality of them was amazing! It gave me such a hard choice! I went round classes last week to announce which applicants had got the job. So with a trumpet from Eco Ernie's trunk our Eco Warriors are:

Underwater: Emil and Ila
Bugs: Mille and Bryce
High Peaks: Ava and Jack
Jungle: Charlie and Henry

For the third year running I have also created an additional Eco Warrior whose job it will be to promote what we are doing into the community. This role requires someone vocal and willing to go that extra mile and I am pleased to give this job to Alice Hammond. Well done to all our Eco Warriors for the job and commiserations to those that did not... please apply again next year!

The first Eco meeting was held on Wednesday in the school hall and we discussed what the main roles of the Eco Warriors are and what I expect them to do. The Eco Warriors will also be designing some posters to go up around the school which will be brought along to our next meeting in January. We also took photos of each classes Eco Warriors for the Eco board in the hall. Unfortunately we weren't able to take a group photo this year but it was very nice to have them all in the same room!

Eco Ernie is having a great time in Mrs West's office and is enjoying watching the assemblies online though he is missing coming into hall assembly and getting cuddles off the children! This time Eco Ernie is awarded to High Peaks for excellent eco friendliness! Well done!

Lastly I wanted to wish you all a Merry Christmas and to say thank you to the entire school for getting involved with helping to reduce our environmental impact... only together can we achieve more!

CROSS COUNTRY

Well done to everybody in Jungle class who participated in the East Sussex Virtual Cross Country. Congratulations to Louie S (year 6) and Flossy (year 5) who both came in the top 25 runners overall! Louie came 11th in the boy's race (out of 191) and Flossy came 14th in the girl's race (out of 192) which is fantastic. Due to the difficulties of hosting a virtual event the organisers have decided not to have a further race at county level as they usually would.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

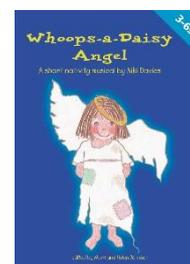
Thank you to the children for writing some wonderful and thoughtful Christmas messages which have been displayed in the school hall for everyone to enjoy. We will be adding the last few to the hall on Monday morning so remember to hand yours in if you would like to write a message.

Unfortunately due to current restrictions we cannot have Christmas cards being circulated around school in the usual way so the LSA have organised this as an alternative.



KSI NATIVITY

Congratulations to Underwater and Bugs class who did an amazing job in their Nativity performances, Whoops-a-Daisy-Angel. We hope you all enjoyed watching it as much as we did, despite it being outside in the cold this year. Thank you for adhering to the restrictions to allow the performances to go ahead.



FACE MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

We recognise that this pandemic and the guidance given has caused upset in people's differing opinion. During the pandemic there has been a lot of guidance and we have all had our own personal situations to deal with. At school we have asked if people can wear face masks when dropping off and picking up their children from school as we found that at these times many were not socially distancing. The wearing of face masks however, cannot be enforced by us as a school- it is parental choice as to whether you choose to wear one or not. We do ask that everyone respect the distance of 2m.

Some parents have felt challenged by others as to why they are not wearing one and some have felt challenged because they are.

The most important priority for us all is to stay safe. I am asking you to please respect that there are different views between families and providing someone isn't coming within 2m of you, to respect their choice.

KS2 PERFORMANCES

A huge well done to Jungle class for their singing performance. Normally they would take part in 'The Big Sing' but as with everything, things are a little different this year. They all sang really well and we are very grateful for parents support, despite the rain!

High Peak's performance is next week, Tues 15th December at 2:15p.m and 2:40p.m. Please make sure you have booked your place if you haven't done so already. We have really enjoyed hearing the children practising in the office over the last couple of weeks!

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS

A huge well done to each class for creating some beautiful decorations for the Village Christmas Tree. Please do take a look at them on display if you get chance. The staff were once again creative in their designs and choice of materials taking into consideration the weather!

CHRISTMAS DINNER

We all enjoyed a delicious school Christmas dinner this week. It was a lovely event with crackers and Christmas music playing, and even a virtual visit from Father Christmas! He brought gifts for each class funded by the LSA. The children had a fabulous time. Thank you to Mrs Bolton for the wonderful lunch.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Today is Christmas Jumper day and the school looks very festive! We raised an incredible **£105.15** for Save the Children. Thank you all very much for your kind donations.

LSA

The LSA would like to thank everyone who bought tickets for the Christmas Raffle and donated items for the Hampers. The raffle raised almost £200 which is fantastic. A huge thank you also to Alison at Laughton Village Shop, Purple Scents, Ellie Woodhall and Anthologie Floristry, who all generously donated prizes.

Well done to all of the winners!

Many thanks to Staverton Nursery for donating the Christmas tree again this year and of course to Katy Weller for organising it for us.

Thank you to Gemma Collins for organising such an amazing Covid safe Christmas shop, we hope you all enjoy opening your gifts. The children had a lot of fun selecting them.

LSA AGM

The LSA AGM will be held in late January 2021 and we hope that this may be able to be socially distanced, depending on government guidance. If we are not able to meet then it will be carried out via Zoom.

Please have a think about whether you would be interested in standing for any of the following roles:

LSA Chair

LSA Vice Chair

RAFFLE WINNERS

-  Mikki Sidebottom
Won Food Hamper
-  Gemma Collins
Won Hamper 2
-  Sandria Nicholas
Won Hamper 3
-  Kathleen Rowland Smith - UK
Won Hamper 4
-  Richard Newman
Won Hamper 5
-  Sandria Nicholas
Won Hamper 6
-  Gemma Collins
Won Bouquet of fresh flowers
-  Lucy Waterhouse - UK
Won Oil Burner and Handmade EcoSoy Wax Melts Gift Box

LSA Treasurer
LSA Secretary

The LSA do a tremendous job from running Easter Mayhem, Bake Sales, and Christmas Grottos to non-school uniform days and second hand uniform sales. They LSA have supported the school with IT needs, PPE equipment, Underwater's mud kitchen and outdoor learning area revamp, Bugs new garden reading library, High Peaks extension and Jungle's leavers celebrations, as well as Pupil Point badges, class cookery lessons and so much more. Getting involved is a great way to support our school and see your efforts make a difference. We will send out a letter in January for you to state your interest for these roles in preparation for the vote at the AGM. We also have class reps for each year group and their role is to support communication about events and help coordinate year group fundraising ideas for their appointed year group.

We hope you all have a wonderful break and look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year!

Kind Regards
Rachel West, Vicki Brown

