



NEWSLETTER 2

October 2017

November 2nd	Holst class Sharing Assembly 9.00am
November 5th	FPSA Fireworks event 5.30pm
November 6th	Anti Bullying Show [whole school]
November 9th	Ancient Greece Workshop Y4/Y5/Y6
November 10th	Pelham Praise Remembrance Service 2.30pm
W/b November 13th	Anti-Bullying Week
November 23rd	Gershwin class Sharing Assembly 9.00am
November 24th	Parent Forum 9.00am
November 28th	Decorating Day
November 30th	Chopin class Sharing Assembly 9.00am
November 30th	Y4/Y5/Y6 Concert at Saffron Hall
December 1st	Christmas Bazaar 3.30 - 5.30
December 11th	Christingle – 2.15pm St Marys Church
December 13th	EYFS and KS1 Nativity 2pm
December 14th	EYFS and KS1 Nativity 2pm
December 18th	FPSA Children's Disco
December 19th	Carol Service – 11am St Marys Church
December 19th	Term ends 2.00pm
January 3rd	Term Starts
January 4th	Pantomime [in school]

Autumn has arrived and in school we are already thinking about Christmas! Before half term every child made a Christmas picture which has now gone off to the printers to be made into individual Christmas cards. Children in reception and KS1 will be performing a Nativity play at the end of term and Mrs Wittich has already cast main parts and got the costumes out to check they are still in good condition. Our annual Decorating Day is on November 28th and we will be asking for helpers so put the date in your diary. I am still collecting jam jars for my activity [I need 36!] so please send any in that you have.

This weekend is the FPSA Fireworks Display. I hope to see many of you there for this popular event—and fingers crossed for clear skies!



As winter approaches the afternoons are getting darker. If your child currently walks home from school on their own particularly if it is after a club you may want to change the arrangement in which case please let us know. We don't want to let a child walk home alone if you have arranged for them to be collected.

This year's national anti-bullying week starts on November 13th. This year the theme is 'All Different, All Equal' and will promote difference and equality in schools. The whole school will watch a specially produced anti bullying show on Monday 6th and then follow this up in their PSHE lessons. I hope to share some of the work arising from this with you in the next newsletter.

New Website

Coram Children's Legal Centre, part of the Coram group of charities, is excited to share with you their website www.lawstuff.org.uk. The Life Bus which visited our school last summer and the scheme of work we are currently using to teach PSHE across the school are both supplied through Coram.

The website is aimed at helping young people find out their legal rights and information on matters relating to online safety, police and the law, education, home and family, children's rights and many more. It also has a "contact us" section where young people can seek legal support from one of our trained legal advisors.

Feedback that Coram have received is that the website is a great tool to assist young people, in particular the At What Age Can I section which can be found here <http://lawstuff.org.uk/at-what-age-can-i/at-what-age-timeline/>.



We have attached their leaflet and displayed it in school.



Attendance

As you are aware we are currently reviewing our Attendance Policy. The final revised document will be sent out to you later this month. Attendance at our school is generally very good [last year it was 96.6%] and above the national average. However this does not mean we can be complacent. In the same time period 40% of children in the school had one or more unauthorised periods of absence. This is in addition to absence due to illness or medical appointments which are of course authorised.

In the last Parents Forum we discussed strategies to encourage good attendance, why this was important and taking term time holidays [unauthorised absence]. Thank you to all those parents who contributed either through attending the forum or sharing their thoughts beforehand if they were unable to attend. The ideas discussed have fed into our overall review resulting in some changes to our approach.

We will no longer be presenting the children with attendance certificates as it was felt that this penalised children who were genuinely poorly or who had a medical condition requiring hospital appointments. There was also a concern expressed that children were being sent to school when they were ill so that they didn't miss out on a certificate. Clearly when a child is genuinely ill they should not be in school but equally children should not be kept at home when they could be in school. As you know we will always send a child home if once they are here it is clear that they really are unwell and are not going to 'perk up' once they get going.

It was agreed that it was important for parents to be made aware if their child's attendance was dropping towards the persistent absence category [set by the government as being 10% absence]. Therefore I will be putting a sticker into reading diaries each half term if attendance could be a cause for concern. Obviously as a parent you will know if your child's absence was because they were genuinely ill - a week off for chickenpox for example would put a child below 90% attendance in the first half of the autumn term [but not across a whole year]. Please do come and see me if you would like further clarification on this.

All requests for term time absence should be made prior to the absence and on the form available from the school office or on our website. There are occasions when a request has not been made and yet it is clear that a child is going [or has been] on holiday. This can lead to awkward conversations with the child when they return to school which is unfair on them.

Gurdwaras, Mosques and More!

Tuesday 10th of October was not your typical school day for Chopin and Gershwin class. Before school had started we were travelling to Bedford to visit a Gurdwara, a Mosque and a Christian Church. The Gurdwara is inspired by the Indian culture and is a place of worship for Sikhs. They believe there is only one God but there were many Gurus. There will not be any more human Gurus but The Guru Granth

Sahib...who is a book, will live for eternity. The Sikhs are very peaceful people and the men hide their hair under a turban. The women also cover their head and everyone takes their shoes off to respect God. There is a dining hall that serves free, vegetarian food so all Sikhs can enjoy their meals. The Guru is kept clean, he is covered by a rumalla and even has his own four poster bed. He is fanned to keep cool and a chandoa [a sort of canopy] hangs above him. Offerings are brought to him and they include milk, vegetables, money and sweets. Kara prashard is offered to both men and women. The Sikhs value equality and peace.

After that the tour guide walked us to the Mosque and the girls covered their heads and any other skin that was showing. We all took our shoes off and entered the

Muslim place of worship. We watched a PowerPoint all about the Islamic religion and we found out that usually, loud bells are rung to call Muslims to the Mosque but seeing as these large instruments are sounded early in the morning the Imam [Priest] decided to let everyone have a lie in! We went through the stages of Muslim prayer. Muslims pray toward Mecca, where their religion was founded.

The Imam walked us to the Church next, the place that is most familiar to us. We explored the building and found out some facts about it. The font that stood at the back of the church was originally a drinking trough for horses. The pashtel candle stood next to it. This candle is lit every Sunday of the Easter season it is also used to light every candle in the church on Easter. The Lady Chapel is adorned by a candle and a cross. It is also covered by a blue cloth and a statue of the virgin Mary is placed next to it. Behind the altar is a place called a Sanctuary where only the Vicar is allowed to go. The choir sits on either side of the altar rail and the pews sit facing the pulpit.

Overall we had a great trip and it was extremely fun experiencing the atmosphere of these different places of worship.

By Annie and Beatrice

NSPCC Speak out Stay Safe

In an assembly, this term, the NSPCC came in and talked to us about what they do. They talked to us about different types of abuses and what's not OK. They also talked to us about childline and who they are and what they do. Childline is an organisation that helps children up to nineteen. Childline help children who are worried or need help with something, and don't know what to do. NSPCC also taught us childlines special number which is, 0800 1111. At the end of the assembly, NSPCC told us that they would be teaching year 5 and 6 more about speaking out and staying safe.

The week after, on Thursday they came back and told us more about what they do. In the year 6 lesson, they started off by putting up statements on the board, and we had to say if it was good, bad or in the middle. After that, we had to do the same thing but with our table. We then went over the childline number again and did actions to go with it. We then watched a video of a boy called Guy, (not anyone in our school) and he lived in a poor condition, with scarcely enough food. Until one day he saw a poster on the wall which had the childline number on it. When he was home he dialled 0800 1111, and told them his problem, they told him what to do and he did what they said and he had a happier life. We finished with going over the meanings of abuses and that was the end of the workshop. We then got a kit for if we forget some of the things they told us.

By Isaac Woor and James Gooch

One of our parents has very kindly offered the school 40 free tickets for **this Sunday's football game at Wembley**. The match is **Tottenham Hotspur vs Crystal Palace**, with a 12:00 kick off.

We are offering these tickets primarily to the children but they will of course need an adult to accompany them. Each adult may bring two children. If you would like to attend this match please let the school office know via email [admin@furneuxp.herts.sch.uk] by 3.15pm today [Thursday]. If there are more requests than tickets we will draw lots.

Please note that those attending will be seated in a THFC area and that at no point support should be shown to the opposition verbally, via gestures or by wearing branded clothing for another football team. At no point can money change hands for these complimentary tickets.



Dates to note

To help with your planning please note the following school dates for this academic year. I hope there won't be a need to change them but please do keep an eye on the dates section of each newsletter or the school website.

February 2nd	Parents Forum
February 7th / 8th	Parents Evenings
March 16th	Parent Forum
March 28th	Easter Service in church
May 11th	Parent Forum
w/b 11th June	Charities week
June 21st/22nd	Coram Life bus
July 4th/5th	Summer performance [whole school]
July 13th	Open afternoon
July 18th	Sports Day

Building Projects

We had a few workmen in over the half term holidays and again at the beginning of this week but I think we are finally there! The school now has a new boiler, heating and hot water system which will be much more efficient and effective than the old one. The project went on for much longer than anticipated but the end result is a much more comfortable working environment for staff and children. It has also made life in the kitchen for Anne and her team much easier as there is a reliable supply of hot water regardless of the time of day.

We are now waiting for some movement on the roofing works. Originally we were hoping this would be completed by the end of the year but this timescale has clearly slipped! As soon as I have any more details I will let you know.

Remembrance service

Members of our Pelham Praise group will be leading this year's remembrance service in school. As remembrance day falls on a Saturday we will hold the service on Friday 10th November at 2.30pm in the school hall followed by our usual Friday sharing assembly. You are of course invited to join us for both.



SHOW YOU REMEMBER
ON THE 11th OF NOVEMBER