

# October Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Thank you all for your support again this year. I hope that you found the parents' evenings useful last week and that the times and choice of virtual /in person suited you. If you have any thoughts about the timing of them, format etc, please do let me know. I do realise that 10 minutes is not long, however we have to set aside 6.5 hours additional time in the week for teachers to accommodate a whole class of 30, so it is the maximum we can realistically offer. If you do need longer though, bear in mind that teachers can arrange meetings to discuss issues and you can contact the school office to arrange a time to come in.

## Lots of news to share!

This term we have been inviting children to lead our whole school collective worship. We have assembly every day, often led by me, Mr Risby and Revd Jason. Several groups of children have now led a variety of fabulous assemblies, ranging in theme from *Being brave*, to *Don't judge other people for their differences*, to *How do Muslims grow closer to Allah* linked to an assembly from Manchester City Mission telling us that *God is Infinite*. As children grow in confidence and understanding and see more and more children role-modelling how to lead an assembly I believe more will want to have a go, and collective worship in school will be more diverse and richer than ever!

Our school library was emptied over the summer and the space will be decorated next week. Mr Neill, a parent has very kindly offered to build the new shelves etc at the cost of just the raw materials, for which we are so very grateful. Bespoke library furniture costs a small fortune, and as you know we are a relatively poor school because you all work so hard that we have very little in the way of deprivation funding.

Which brings me to a plea... if any of you have an occupation or hobby that you feel could in any way benefit school in terms of offering your time, or your advice, we would be very grateful if you would email Mrs Redfern with the details. We would like to develop a 'bank of expertise'... perhaps a plumber to call to advise about whether a quote we have had is reasonable value, perhaps a fitness or dance coach who would run a club for 30 mins after school for 6 weeks, maybe someone with IT knowledge who can provide advice about internet packages... I'm sure that you get the idea. We aren't asking for much time... and we would never put you on the spot by expecting something for nothing. But it would be useful for us to know who we might call if we need something and ultimately, any money we save on buildings or supplies can be allocated instead to things that make the real difference to our children's development and learning such as teachers and TAs, and I know that is something we all want!

Finally a reminder... as you know term dates are on the school website. This week school closes on Wednesday at 3.30pm so that Thursday and Friday can be used for staff training. For any of you interested in what we do on these days; Thursday begins with a whole staff training on pedagogy (the 'how' of teaching effectively), with a training for our teachers in their Curriculum Teams later in the day, and appraisals in between. On Friday we are renewing our training on behaviour management for our most vulnerable children which includes de-escalation strategies for children approaching crisis as well as manual handling techniques for children who require moving from their setting to settle when a crisis could not be avoided. On a positive note, the handful of children through school who can have these types of episodes are being so well provided for so far this year that restraint has not been required (and yes, I am aware that I possibly just jinxed myself!) For more information about what the Curriculum Teams in school do, see on the website 'Curriculum Subjects' where you will find the rationale for each subject including our aims, or for more information about how we manage behaviour, including for the most vulnerable, the website also has a copy of our most up to date Behaviour Policy.

I hope that you all have a lovely time with your children next week.

Kind regards

Melanie Barratt

# Please tell the office...

Either by telephone, in person or by email any time your child will be absent or has an appointment. If you tell me or the class teacher, we just assume you are letting us know AS WELL, so unless you tell the office, the staff there don't always know. It is their responsibility to record absence.

Many thanks

## School Council

The classes from Year 1-6 have now elected their school councillors, two per class. They will be in touch soon to tell you about their fund raising plans and outline their role in school. Well done to all the children who put themselves forward for this role and presented to the class the reasons they would be good at it.

## Provisional Christmas dates

07-12-21 at 9.30am	Year 1 Christmas Songs—live in the hall if possible (on Teams if not)
08-12-21 at 9.30am	Nursery Christmas Songs and Rhymes on Teams from the classroom
09-12-21 at 9.30am	Reception Nativity on Teams from the classroom
10-12-21 at 9.30am	Year 2 Nativity—live in the hall if possible (on Teams if not)
14-12-21	Christmas dinner and sweater day
14-12-21 at 6.30pm	KS2 Carol Service at Church if possible (if not, on Teams)
15-12-21	Whole school at Panto at Middleton Arena
TBC 15-12-21	PTA Christmas Fair 3.30-5.30pm
16-12-21	Whole School Party day



When we return from the half term break, children can bring in money for the Poppy Appeal. They can make a donation for a traditional poppy or a stick on one, and there will be a range of other poppy-related merchandise including:

Zip pull 50p

Bag Reflector 50P

Silicon Wristband £1

Snap band £1.50

Metal pin badges £2