

Newsletter
November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Curriculum Development

There are lots of exciting learning opportunities taking place within the school this term and the staff are working very hard to make children's learning fun and engaging whilst also making sure the children make good progress.

So far this term Year 4 have travelled to the North Pole on the Polar Express and enjoyed watching the movie in their pyjamas, whilst enjoying a hot chocolate. They used this as a stimulus to develop high quality writing and I know they are looking forward to celebrating this Learning Journey when they visit Ongar to travel on a real steam train.

Year 3 have been learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali and are enjoying the opportunity to understand the story of Ramayana and learn about another culture and religion. Happy Diwali to those in the community who celebrate this festival.

Reception



The children thoroughly enjoyed the session from zoo labs and showed lots of courage and care when handling the animals. The children got to hold a snake, gerbil, cockroach and giant snail.

This visit supported the children in developing their reading and writing skills as well as looking at bullying through use of the animal story book. The children were taught a chant with actions "be nice, be kind, that's good advice", which they used to teach Ronny how to be a better friend.

As a school we are reviewing our curriculum to make sure that it reflects and meets the needs of our community. Teachers are working incredibly hard to make sure your children develop great learning behaviours and master the skills and knowledge they need to be successful now and in the future.

Children In Need

Wow! What an amazing day raising funds for Children in Need. Everyone enjoyed coming into school in their pyjamas although we all felt a little sleepy throughout the day. The children and staff made a huge effort and your donations will make a big difference to lives of children across the country. Through the sale of our wrist bands, cake sale and dressing up, we raised an amazing £1259. Well done to the whole community for their support.



Christmas Fete

This year Woodpecker and Cuckoo hall will be holding a joint Christmas fete on **Friday 7th December** from 3:00-5:00pm. The festivities will begin with the Christmas lights being turned on in Ayse's Garden at 2pm followed by the joint choir singing their favourite seasonal songs at 2:30pm in Woodpecker main hall. All parents are welcome to come along join in and have a mince pie, tea and coffee. Following on from this there will be delicious food to taste in the Cuckoo Hall dining room, you can visit Santa in his Grotto and take part in all the lovely games and activities. The staff and I look forward to seeing you there.



To help us run a successful event we are asking that on the **30th November**, your children bring into school a jar of sweets, treats, small toys, bubbles etc., so we can use this on one of our stalls. In return for the small jar donation your child can come to school on that day in **non-uniform**. I know that all the teachers are looking forward to wearing their jeans that day.

Year 1 Nativity

The Year 1 staff and children would like to invite their parents and carers to watch their Nativity production "Lights, Camel, Action" on **Tuesday 18th December** at 9:30am and again at 2:20pm. I know that you won't want to miss their brilliant singing and retelling of the Christmas story. Mince pies, teas and coffee will be available in the lower school hall.

Save the Children - Christmas Jumper Day



On **Wednesday 19th December** we'd like to invite all children to wear their Christmas jumper to school as a way of raising money for children less fortunate than ourselves. This is a national event which we will be holding on the 19th December as it is the same day that the children have their Christmas dinner. If your child hasn't got a Christmas jumper, they can just wear non-uniform that day and bring their £1 donation for the charity. The school office will soon be sending out a letter to those children who usually have packed lunch but would like to take part in Christmas dinner.

School Gates

Thank you to all those who are parking further away from school and walking for five minutes. This is making a difference to the start and end of the school day and making the roads around our school much safer. I'd also like to encourage all parent to refrain from smoking around the school gates so that the entrances are smoke free at all times. Many thanks for your support on this matter.



School Holidays

Just a reminder that school closes on Friday 21st December at 1:30pm and re-opens on Tuesday 8th January at 8:45am.