

20TH NOVEMBER 2019

It seems that now Bonfire Night has passed, things are beginning to gear up for Christmas! I love being able to hear preparations for the Year 3 Christmas Production, "*C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S*" *Spells Christmas* from my office and I know the children and Year 3 staff are working really hard to put on a great show for their families in December. Please keep an eye out for letters home about costumes and tickets nearer the time.

Thank you to all those who attended our Parent/Carer Meetings last week. If you could not make your appointment, please contact the school office to re-arrange with your child's class teacher. We took almost £1400 at the Book Fair, meaning the school receives just over £800 of commission to spend on books for bookshelves or to read in lessons. Thank you, as always, for your support.

Our annual Children in Need challenge to fill our Pudsey Bear outline with spare change was its usual success last Friday, raising £536.16, which includes sales of Pudsey merchandise during the week. Thank you for your donations. We also raised £235.74 for the Poppy Appeal through sales of poppies and other merchandise in November.



With Christmas looming, please make a note of the key dates below and on the back of this newsletter as we have lots of exciting things planned!

Mrs J Hill

Christmas Activities

Our Christmas Discos will be held on **Thursday 5th December**. The Lower School Disco, for Year 3 and 4 children, will start at 5:00pm and end at 6:15pm. The Upper School Disco, for Year 5 and 6 children, will start at 6:30pm and end at 7:45pm. All children must be collected from the discos by an adult.



Tickets cost £2 and can be purchased on a first come, first served basis each morning from Monday 25th November between 8:45am and 8:55am in the school hall.



Christmas Jumper Day will take place on **Friday 13th December** and is a perfect chance to get out those festive pullovers again! Children can wear their Christmas jumpers, badges or t-shirts along with their normal school uniform (no jeans or trainers please) for a £1 donation. Christmas badges will be available to purchase in the school office for £1 from Monday 2nd December. As usual, the funds raised will go towards paying for David's education in Kenya. We have been sponsoring David, a Maasai Tribe member, through school and college since he was 14 years old. David is currently training to be a teacher and funds raised will go towards supporting him to complete this training.

Lockdown

As you are aware, we work hard to ensure our children are safe in school at all times. Sometimes, to stay safe in school we need to leave the building quickly (fire drill); other times the danger could be outside and we need to enter the building quickly to stay safe (lockdown).

Next week, we will be practicing our lockdown drill in school for the first time this year. For a lockdown, a different alarm is sounded and it is important that the children in school know what it sounds like and what to do when they hear it.

Our Year 3 children will be taught about what to do this week and I am sure that they will tell you all about it!



Separated Parent Policy

Our new Separated Parent policy can now be found on the school website. The policy has been written in conjunction with our Data Protection Officer and some parents who kindly gave up their time to read through the policy and fed back to us to ensure we had addressed all issues faced by separated parents when dealing with school.

The policy has been written to ensure the school continues to work with families and fully involve all those with parental responsibility in the life of the school, in the best interests of the child, after parents separate. The policy is an attempt to minimise any impact, clarify to all parties what is expected from separated parents and outline what can be expected from the school and its staff.



SEND Peer Review



We recently took part in a review of our SEND provision, carried out by headteachers of other local schools who have particular expertise in SEND. We were thrilled by the results, which highlighted the *fantastic* work our staff and, in particular, our SEND Team, led by Mrs Costema, do in school to support our children. The review team found the following strengths:

- ◇ This is an exceptionally inclusive school where all pupils, including those with SEND, are at the heart of the school's motto of 'Be the best that you can be';
- ◇ Progress and attainment for SEND pupils is above national;
- ◇ The SEND leader shares a high degree of expertise and she is well-respected and valued by staff, parents and pupils;
- ◇ Pupils are fully accepting of each others' needs and show care and respect for each other.

The review also provided us with some areas for further development, which we will be working on during the coming months.

Collaborative Work

Thank you to those parents who have attended one of the forums run at Gayton and Ridgeway in the last fortnight. Both Mrs Dale and myself, along with the Joint Working Party of governors, greatly appreciate you giving up your time to come in and share your views.



Both schools have now been collaborating closely for a year, focusing on the aspects below:

- ◆ Staff training on Maths Anxiety, Phonics and Autism
- ◆ Joint working on Metacognition, Mental Health, SEND and Reading
- ◆ Curriculum Development
- ◆ Sharing of resources
- ◆ Policy writing
- ◆ Learning Mentor sessions
- ◆ Shared enrichment activities

Both Governing Boards are looking to make a decision about the future structure of both schools in the coming months. They will decide if an appointment of a Headteacher for each school or an Executive Headteacher to lead both schools should be made. It is their aim that both schools will have a permanent leadership structure in place by September 2020. We will continue to keep you updated with our collaborative work.

Road Safety

We are still receiving a number of complaints about dangerous parking and driving around the entrance to the school. Please continue to be considerate when stopping to drop off or collect your children—too many cars parked on pavements make crossing hazards for those who are walking to school. One resident had cause to report being verbally abused by parents before half term. We continue to work with the local councillors and the neighbourhood groups to find solutions to these issues.



PLEASE, please, please avoid driving up to the school gates to drop off children when the gates are closed! Doing this means you have to reverse out onto the road and this seems like an easy danger to avoid.

Playtime

Please remember to send your child with a healthy snack for playtime. Snacks such as vegetable sticks, cheese strings, yoghurt pouches, fruit or cereal bars. Children should bring their snacks in their bags, not their lunchboxes/sandwich bags please. Snacks can be left in bags or trays until playtime.



In lessons, we like to encourage the children to keep hydrated, as this helps them to concentrate better throughout the day. To avoid ruining work if there are spillages, we have a **still water only rule for drinks in the classroom**. Children can bring in their own, named water bottles—ideally with a sports cap or similar to drink from—which they should take home daily to be cleaned. The office also sell water bottles if you wish to purchase one from them.

KEY DATES 2019-20

Friday 22nd November	All Day	Year 3 Greek Day
Monday 25th November	9:15am	SPAG Session for Year 5 & 6 Parents
Wednesday 27th November	9:30-10:30am or 1:45-2:45pm	Year 2 Open Day
Wednesday 4th December	12.15pm	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 5th December	5.00-6.15pm Lower School 6.30-7.45pm Upper School	Christmas Discos
Friday 6th December	All day	Year 5 Egyptian Day
Tuesday 10th December	All day	Year 4 Jorvik Trip
Wednesday 11th December	2pm & 6pm	Year 3 Christmas Production
Friday 13th December	All day	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 16th December	AM	Class 9 Rolls Royce Trip
Thursday 19th December	3:30pm	Treat Day & Break up for Christmas Holiday
Friday 20th December	All Day	INSET 3
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS		
Monday 6th January	All Day	INSET 4
Tuesday 7th January	8:55am	Back to School
Friday 24th January	All Day	Faith Day—Chinese New Year
Tuesday 11th February	All Day	Safer Internet Day
Friday 14th February	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term
HALF TERM		
Monday 24th February	8:55am	Back to School
Monday 24th February	11am onwards	Year 6 Fire Safety Talks—Derbyshire Fire Brigade
Thursday 2nd April	3:30pm	Break up for Easter
Friday 3rd April	All Day	INSET 5
EASTER HOLIDAYS		
Monday 20th April	8:55am	Back to School
Friday 22nd May	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term
HALF TERM		
Monday 1st June	8:55am	Back to School
Friday 24th July	3:30pm	Break up for Summer