



Dear Parents/ Carers,

With the end of the term creeping closer and a number of different events happening in the last few weeks, I thought I would take this opportunity to inform you of the opportunities the children have been enjoying and remind you of those upcoming events.

### **Harvest Assembly**

Our Harvest Festival was a bit of a disaster this year due to the weather. We had enjoyed glorious weather all week and so decided to hold the assembly outside to enable parents to see the children clearly; however, on the afternoon of the assembly the rain decided to descend and the wind howl!

We de-camped to the hall and arranged the children at one end thinking that more parents would be able to fit in the hall. Unfortunately, the children did not have enough room to 'show' their performances and parents did not have enough room to fit in the hall. It certainly showed us that we would have to split the number of children at any event next year!

I would like to thank the parents and carers for their kind donations. The Food Bank were very impressed with the amount of food they collected. 'Mr Food Bank' even offered to be Father Christmas for us!

### **Early Years Activity Afternoon**

Our Early Years children enjoyed an afternoon of crafts, cake decorating and singing with their parents and carers. It gave parents the opportunity to see some of the skills the children have learnt so far this term.

### **Book Fayre**

Due to the number of purchases parents and carers made at the Book Fayre, we were able to choose books up to the value of £240! Many thanks once again, we will be buying books as an incentive to children reading at home to an adult. I am sure you will be hearing soon from your child!

### **Coffee Morning**

Mrs Verwey organised a coffee morning for parents and carers that have children attending the school who have additional needs. A number of parents attended and there was lots of discussion and support for each other. It also enabled new mums to the school to become acquainted with families that live in Newton Leys. We intend to hold this coffee morning once a term.

## **Healthy & Well Being Week**

The staff and children had a focused week looking at how they can stay healthy and be aware of how they are feeling.

There were two days of workshops provided by an outside organisation where children participated in sporting and healthy lifestyle activities as well as the usual yoga sessions that take place each week for the children.

The week culminated with a visit from a Paralympic sportsman (weight lifter) who spoke to the children about his attitude to having an active life and staying healthy and how there are no barriers to enjoying that lifestyle.

## **Remembrance Sunday**

In my previous Newsletter I praised the children who came along and took part in the Remembrance Day Parade in Bletchley. I can now tell you that the school raised £70.94 through selling poppies before school.

## **Children in Need**

Thank you so much for the massive £216.88 raised for Children in Need this year. The children looked splendid in their Peter Pan costumes and had a wonderful time watching the pantomime.

## **Christmas Lights**

I was so proud of our choir who sang beautifully and with gusto at the switching on of the Bletchley Christmas Lights. Mrs Verwey does an amazing job preparing them for these occasions. It is lovely to see how many parents support these events and the children love performing. I am sure we will be top of the bill next year!

## **Supershoes**

Many of you will be aware that every year we select a local charity to support, alongside the national charities we support. The money raised last year was a whopping £589.00. Supershoes is a charity that provides converse trainers for children with life threatening conditions.

Converse provides the trainers at a very low cost and a bank of volunteer artists then decorate the trainers to the child's specific wishes.

The founder of the charity visited the children and delivered an assembly explaining what they do, showing examples of the art work and sharing with the children the excitement and pleasure the trainers provide for the children that receive them.

Thank you for your support and kind donations.

## **Projects**

We are involved in a number of projects this year that aim to develop our practice in school.

## **Early Years Project**

'Young' Mrs Villa and the early year's team are taking part in a project that is organised from Bedford local authority. The project focusses on 'The Unique Child' and aims to inform and upskill parents about identifying the successes children have when away from school. A number of parents have offered to become involved in the project and the outcome will inform the team how best they can support parents and carers at home, and parents the value of the information they provide to school in terms of their child's development.

## **STEM Project**

Mrs Palmer is leading a project that supports schools and teachers in developing science, technology, IT and maths. The project provides highly bespoke, flexible and focused CPD with the aim to develop and improve teachers' skills, knowledge and experience of these subject areas.

## **Enigma Maths Hub – Mastery Maths**

Mr Ramsay is leading a maths project that is based at Denbigh School, in developing and embedding a 'mastery' approach to teaching maths. Again, this focusses on supporting and developing teachers' skills at teaching maths. The project runs for two years.

## **Events we are looking forward to:**

Year 4, 5 and 6 will be visiting Sir Herbert Leon School in the next few weeks to experience life at secondary school. It provides an opportunity for the children to prepare for transition and experience the additional activities that a secondary school can provide.

Year 5 have been studying the Greeks this half term and will be immersed in that period of time for a couple weeks culminating in a focus day when they will experience: food, clothing, Literature (Homer), Spartan exercise (but with clothes on Mrs Muncaster has assured me!) and if time allows some Greek writing.

December 15<sup>th</sup> our choir has been asked to sing at the official opening of the Newton Leys Pavilion and the school is having a stall. The children are preparing some of the activities we will have on the stall but we are asking parents to donate items for a tombola i.e. unwanted toiletries, unwanted toys, bottles and unwanted gifts.

Once again, the choir are in high demand singing at Lakeview for the residents on December 17<sup>th</sup>. We shall have to start asking for a fee soon!

Early Years are having a Christmas sing – a – long with parents on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm. I am sure there will be a mince pie or two for them to enjoy!

Also at 2.30pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> December, parents of children in Year 1 to 6 are invited into their child's classroom to share in the work the children have enjoyed this term. Parents are free to take their child home with them once the afternoon is over (approx.. 3.00pm).

The evening performance of the school nativity takes place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm. The cast are children selected from Years 1 and 2.

The afternoon production is on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm.

Christmas jumper day is on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December. The children will pay 50p to wear their Christmas jumper, the proceeds will go to the national charity. They will also enjoy their Christmas lunch and then for children in year 2 upwards there will be a disco, and for children in nursery, reception and year 1 there will be a visit by a very, special person.

Our term will end with our own carol concert on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 2pm. Due to the number of parents that attend this event, we are planning to hold it outside, just as we did for our school opening event. We are hoping that the weather will be on our side as we think more parents will be able to enjoy the concert.

### **A few gentle reminders:**

As you are aware, the children are set homework each week. This is an opportunity for parents and carers to have some insight in what their child is studying at that time. It also provides valuable feedback to parents whether a child is confident about what they have learnt or require some additional learning sessions. Please do not worry if your child is unable to complete the homework, teachers need to know if a child has been unable to do a task.

Please make sure your child wears a plain, black tracksuit on the main PE day. The children look so smart coming into school in uniform and it is such a shame on 'PE days' to see so many children coming in with a variety of different coloured tracksuits. Plain black trainers or plimsoles should be kept at school for when there are additional opportunities to do PE or dance.

You will have noticed the school gate closes promptly at 8.35am. We were finding that there were a number of parents regularly arriving at 8.35am and not leaving via the gate until 8.45/ 8.50am. This delays staff in getting into class to support the children. Please ensure you have dropped your child at the bottom picket fence by 8.30am.

Over the last couple of terms, I have received a number of reports from parents about the careless driving and parking of some of our parents, at times this might have resulted in a child being injured. We have used the children with posters to highlight to parents the importance of driving slowly and parking in the correct areas and I have reminded parents in my Newsletters. Please drive and park with care before a child is injured.

I look forward to seeing you all in the upcoming events.

Warm regards,

*Pippa Villa*

## Dates for Diaries

December 18 <sup>th</sup>	Early Years Christmas sing-a-long 2.00pm Years 1 to 6 celebration of study enjoyed this term 2.30pm
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch/ Christmas Jumper/ Father Christmas (EY & Yrs 1)/ Disco (Yrs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	KS 1 Christmas Nativity 6pm
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	KS 1 Christmas Nativity 2pm
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	School Christmas carol Service 2pm

*24<sup>th</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019*      *Start of Christmas holidays*  
*Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)*

January 9<sup>th</sup>      Open Morning 9am

*18<sup>th</sup> February – 22<sup>nd</sup> February*      *Start of spring half term holidays*  
*Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)*

February 25<sup>th</sup> (Monday)      Inset (children not in school)

March 6<sup>th</sup>      Open Morning 9am

*8<sup>th</sup> April – 19<sup>th</sup> April*      *Start of Easter holidays*  
*Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)*

1<sup>st</sup> May      Open Morning 9am

*27<sup>th</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May*      *Start of summer half term*  
*Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)*

June 19<sup>th</sup>      Open Morning 9am

22<sup>nd</sup> July

*Start of summer holidays*

*Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)*