



Primary Parents News letter

13th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

This week

The children have been working well with their assessments this week, and attendance has been good with the children looking well and alert.

On Wednesday children from Year 5 explained the meaning of Remembrance Day (11 November) and we held a minute's silence at 11am as a mark of respect and to remember those who have given their lives in the service of their country.

Yesterday 3TL held their class assembly based on their IPC Unit 'Explorers and Adventurers.' It was a great informative and entertaining assembly with guest appearances from Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong.

Next Week

Next week we have anti-bullying week, and on Monday the children are encouraged to wear odd socks to signify our differences. More details below.

Also later on Monday morning we will be holding an Emergency Evacuation drill. This is a normal termly drill where we will be able to rehearse our procedures and check the children know what to do in case of a real emergency.

On Tuesday morning pupils in Years 5 and 6 will be taking part in a mathematics challenge in school.

On Wednesday morning Ms Sophie will be hosting a coffee morning workshop on Phase 2 Phonics. Whilst aimed at Early Years parents, any parent interested in learning more about Phase 2 phonics is welcome. Please let the office know if you intend attending.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week 2020 is happening from Monday 16th – Friday 20th November and this year has the theme '**United Against Bullying**'.

Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child's life well into adulthood. This year, with the COVID pandemic, more than ever we have witnessed the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge. Anti-Bullying Week is no different. Bullying has a long lasting effect on those who experience and witness it. But by channelling our collective power, through shared efforts and shared ambitions, we can reduce bullying together. From parents and carers, to teachers and politicians, to children and young people, we all have our part to play in coming together to make a difference.

We are all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we are united against bullying.

St. Stephen's teachers have planned some fun activities for their students to do next week. We will begin the week with **Odd Socks Day next Monday**. Odd Socks Day is all about fun, but more importantly it delivers a message of individuality, acceptance and tolerance. Wearing odd socks reminds us that everyone is different and that is good. All the children have to do to take part is wear odd socks to school next Monday; it could not be simpler.

Years 1 and 2 Production

The Year 1 and 2 children and staff are working hard in preparation for their production of Santa's Hat, which they will be performing on Wednesday 9 December. Tickets will be available from Monday at the cashier's office. Unfortunately, we will have to restrict these to two tickets per child.

Tablet Devices

Children from years 4 -6 bring their own tablet devices in to school to support their learning. I must remind parents, and children that in accordance with our Internet and Acceptable Use policies and procedures, children should only be able to access the internet through the school's wireless connection. Therefore, we are kindly asking parents to remove the sim cards from their children's devices before the children come to school. If children do come to school with sim cards, their teachers will ask the IT technicians to come to class and remove them. They will be put in an envelope for safe keeping and then returned to parents at the end of the day.

Cooler Weather

As we approach the cooler season please do remember that if children need to wear a jumper then it should be a school uniform jumper. These are available from the school shop. Also if leggings are worn with the girls' pinafore dresses then they should be undecorated and a single colour, either grey, dark blue or black.

Upcoming events

Some important dates for your diary include:

Monday 16 November	Odd Socks day (Start of Anti Bullying Awareness week)
Wednesday 18 November	Early Years Phase2 Phonics Workshop
Thursday 26 November	Year 6 Thai trip
Thursday 26 November	Years 1 &2 Sports Day
Thursday December 3	Year 1 trip to Toy Museum
Thursday December 3	Year 3 Thai trip
Friday 4 December	Early Years Christmas Crafts morning
Wednesday December 9	Years 1&2 Production
Thursday 10 December	Open House
Friday 11 December	School closed for Holiday
Monday 14 December	Open House
Wednesday 16 December	Years 3&4 Concert
Thursday 17 December	Last day of term
Friday 18 December	School closed for Christmas Holidays.

As always I wish you a happy and restful weekend, and look forward to seeing the children and yourselves on Monday.

Should you have any queries about your child's experiences here at St. Stephen's then please do feel free to contact me.

Kindest regards

Mr. Rob Bendall
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