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Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'd like to start by thanking you all for your support as we welcomed the children back to school on Wednesday. I always expected the majority of parents to be wearing face coverings but I was amazed that almost everyone did. This also helps protect those parents who are unable to wear a face covering.

To avoid any doubt, I would like to highlight that staff in school are not routinely wearing face coverings, especially if they are working within their bubble. There may be occasions that this does take place but these will primarily be where staff are working with a child or group of children they would not routinely be with.

Our new protocols mean that we have had to cancel visitors to the school and trips but sadly this is unavoidable. It also means that Christmas will look very different this year and I hope to be able to give you more information next week on what changes we will be making to our celebrations this year.

Parent Governor Election

Just a reminder that any ballots for the parent governor election need to be submitted by next Thursday. Unlike certain other elections that are taking place at the moment – we'll have a result on Friday that we can share via the school newsletter. Any ballots received after this date cannot be counted (no matter when they are post-marked!)

Next week, you will be able to drop off your ballots on the school playground as we'll have a ballot box available.

More information can be found on the [Governance](#) section of our school website.

Child Flu Vaccinations

Another call for parents to give their consent (or not) about the childhood flu vaccinations which are taking place on 25th November. **The online consent form closes on 20th November 2020.** If you need a copy of the letter then please speak to someone in the school office.

Ofsted Visit

We have now received our letter from Ofsted following our visit which took place at the end of September. I have included this letter along with this newsletter and it can also be found on [Ofsted](#) page of our school website.

If you read the letter, you will see that a lot of it is very generic. The HMI was very clear that this was not an inspection and they were unable to make evaluative judgments. Personally, I feel that the letter does not reflect the depth of conversations that took place over the course of the day but I do understand that this is part of a national agenda and was more about information gathering.



Times Table Rock Stars

As part of our commitment to make maths exciting and high profile in our school, this November we are taking part in a competition for Maths Week England. It's called Rock Out 2020 and it's all done online via <https://play.ttrockstars.com/>



For every correct answer to a multiplication or division question, your child will earn their class a point. The Times Tables Rock Stars platform will calculate the class average (the number of correct answers per pupil in the class who play during the competition hours). Winning classes in the school and in the country as a whole will be the ones with the highest average.

All game modes (Gig, Garage, Studio, etc.) will count but only from games played between 7.30am and 7.30pm on Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th, Friday 13th and Saturday 14th.

In the spirit of the competition, please don't play on their behalf but by all means encourage and support them to the extent that it doesn't cause high stress levels or impact on family plans. We suggest a limit of half an hour a day outside school hours – some will play more, some will play less.

Act of Remembrance

On Wednesday 11th November, the school will be holding an Act of Remembrance in the school at 11am. Children are able to purchase poppy memorabilia in their year groups from today until the end of Wednesday.



School Finances and Parental Debt

Next week, I am meeting with the Finance & Personnel Team of the Governing Board and therefore I have been preparing some information for them. Whilst doing this, I have developed some concerns about the level of debt that is owed to the school by a small number of parents.

Personal finances are quite often an uncomfortable thing to discuss and no-one wants to be having an uncomfortable conversation however, if there is unpaid debt, this doesn't just go away when a child leaves the school. It ends up being paid for by the school and this is money that should be being spent on the children's education.

Over the past year, the school has had to write off several thousand pounds of unpaid dinner money, BASC fees or school trips and this is something that really can't continue as it is not a fair situation for everyone else.

Yesterday I met with Clare in the school office and she presented me with a list of dinner money debtors which total over £2000. Whilst many of these debts are small, i.e. less than £20, there are a significant number of parents who owe the school more than £100. I have asked Clare to contact all parents and inform them that, if debt continues to accrue, we will need to reconsider the provision of school meals.

After Christmas, we will be moving to a system where parents are asked to order and pre-pay for their children's school meals on Parent Mail so it is important that these debts are cleared before this time.

We will always support parents where we can, especially at this difficult time, but I feel strongly that leaving debt to accrue at the expense of other children would not be in line with our values as a school or as a community. If you are affected then please speak to Clare in the school office so that we can arrange a plan going forward.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James Tibbles'.

James Tibbles

Celebration

Star Pupils

Each Friday, we celebrate children who have impressed the adults in school either through their learning or demonstrating one of our Christian values.

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| ☆ Ava W (RAM) for using her phonics skills and creativity to write a short story book. <i>Miss Maw</i> | ☆ Jenson T (3HA) for his fantastic efforts and learning this week. <i>Miss Allison</i> |
| ☆ Reggie A (REC) for showing great determination and perseverance with his writing and letter formations in phonics! <i>Miss Cowley</i> | ☆ Isaac S (4ST) for making excellent contributions to our RE lesson. <i>Mrs Tomsett</i> |
| ☆ Elodie B (1CS) for her excellent report all about half term that was written independently and with great confidence. <i>Miss S Smith</i> | ☆ Poppy W (4JH) for applying her learning to her maths with great dedication. <i>Mr Harris</i> |
| ☆ Ivy M (1LA) for writing her report about the half term independently. <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ Hope F (5JP) for her excellent efforts when applying skills in maths. <i>Mr Perfect</i> |
| ☆ Samuel T (2FP) Every morning when Samuel arrives in school he helps Mrs Munday by doing little jobs without being asked. <i>Mrs Franks</i> | ☆ Hari D (5JS) for regularly being a good role model for his peers and for demonstrating all the school values, particularly compassion and generosity. <i>Miss J Smith</i> |
| ☆ Patsy P (2GD) for being actively involved in our music lessons and confidently performing a solo in front of the rest of the class. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> | ☆ Jemima B (6NA) for excellent contributions to discussion during our Virtual Cathedral School Day. <i>Mrs Allen</i> |
| ☆ Ted C-P (3SA) for always making valuable contributions to class discussions, especially in Science this week and his general eagerness! <i>Mrs Amelia</i> | ☆ Brandon C (6MB) for leading by example and offering plenty of encouragement to his team in handball this week. <i>Mr Beard</i> |

Buster Book Club



Well done to **2GD** who won the class 'Buster Book Club' award again this week having read a total of 639 minutes between them (an average of 21 minutes each) and to **5JP** who read a total of 1086 minutes (an average of 36 minutes each).

Latest Blog Posts

Highlights from the week's selection of blog posts.

[READ ALL BLOGS >](#)

2nd November 2020



Year 3 – A Bridge to the Past

Wow, what a great term! Year 3 have had such fun over the last few weeks learning about Bridge. We have linked our learning -both inside and outside of the classroom- to History and Geography.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

5th November 2020



Year 6 Virtual Cathedral Day

Year 6 had a great day on Wednesday taking part in the Virtual Cathedral School Day. We had a virtual tour of the cathedral and learnt about the history of the Bossanyi stained glass windows...

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

5th November 2020



The Lost Things

Just before the half-term holidays, Year 5 finished making their 'Lost Thing' abstract sculptures. The pupil's work was inspired by Shaun Tan's picture book 'The Lost Thing'.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)