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Friday 13th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a somewhat quieter week this week as we all get back into the routine of school. Whilst it is disappointing that we have had to cancel planned trips and visitors, the removal of these time-pressures has been an unexpected silver lining as it allows for a more relaxing period of time prior to Christmas.

Today, you should have also received this term's Information and Key Learning sheets from your child's class teacher. You can also find these on the [Class Pages](#) of the school website should these ever get lost or misplaced.



Children in Need



Today, many of the children dressed up in their sports gear and also gave donations to Children in Need. In our Collective Worship this afternoon, I spoke to the children about our Christian value of compassion but that how compassion in itself was not enough.

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2: 14-17

Compassion must be accompanied by generosity – not just the financial generosity that you have shown today (although I know that is much appreciated) but generosity of spirit and time. As the children did this afternoon, I'd like to invite parents to give thanks to those who respond with care, kindness and compassion in our community and wider world.

Parent Governor Election

Following the conclusion of the parental election process, the ballots were counted this morning in the presence of Matthew Jones (Chair of Governors) and Jonathan Cane (Clerk) and I am pleased to inform you all that the successful candidate was Katie Clark.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the candidates for their offers of service to the school as a potential school governor and look forward to welcoming Katie at our next governor meeting.

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.



Remembrance

On Wednesday we came together for the Act of Remembrance on the school playground. Prior to this, we held Collective Worship in classrooms to consider the symbolism of the poppy as a symbol of peace and hope. Annabelle (Year 6) kindly read the poem 'In Flander's Field' for the school and Hanna (Year 3) and Mrs Long read the exhortation as part of the act itself.

Year 6 walked to the War Memorial at Patricxbourne Church where they met Rev. Estella to read some poems and lay a wreath at 11am.



Emma has also set up a display in the library showcasing books with the theme of Remembrance for children to share and read. This will be on display for the whole of November.



Christmas Arrangements

On Tuesday, I met with the senior leadership team to discuss our forthcoming Christmas plans and I'm pleased to be able to share these with you below. As you would expect there are some changes from previous years, partly because of the COVID-19 pandemic but also in response to feedback from parents and staff that December was very busy and that they would appreciate some events being spread out a little more.

Christmas Cards

Just a quick comment following a parental question. If your child would like to bring in Christmas cards for friends, then we arrange this. Please could we ask that cards are brought in on a Friday and then we will happily distribute these the following week. Cards should be named on the front and, if the recipient is in a different class, it must also have the class name on the front of the envelope.

Christmas Productions

Historically, all children in Key Stage 1 take part in a production at Christmas time. We have made the decision that we will be changing this arrangement, not just for this year but also for future years. Whilst, I feel it is important that children get the opportunity to 'perform', having so many performances at one time is difficult for parents, staff and children. This year, Year R children will be performing the nativity story and this will be recorded so it can be shared with parents and other children in the school. Year 1 and 2 will not be doing a Christmas performance although the children will still get this opportunity later in the year when we would hopefully be in a position to invite parents back into school.

Christmas Bazaar

Sadly, but inevitably, the Christmas Bazaar will not be taking place this year.

Christmas Jumper Day

It's that time of year again when you can dust off your Christmas jumper without shame. On Friday 11th December, we'll all be donning our festive gear and collecting £1 donations for Save the Children.



Salvation Army Concert/Appeal

As you would expect, we are unable to welcome the Salvation Army to our school for their annual concert but I have been contacted by them to ask if the school community would still be able to support. The Salvation Army do incredible work in our community and we're happy to support them where we can.



"Since the start of lockdown, we have been delivering food parcels to a number of families and individuals. We would like to add some items that will change these food parcels into Christmas hampers. If the children and their families were able to donate food items that are Christmassy/treats that would be great. We do not usually include items like boxes of Heroes/Celebration. Another option could be a Christmas-themed desert like a Christmas pudding or yule log."

If you have anything you would like to donate to the Salvation Army appeal then we'll have a drop-box in the school office.

Christingle Services

This year, we are unable to attend church for our normal Advent Service and Rev. Estella and I have made the decision to hold our Christingle Services at the church rather than in the school hall – these will take place on Tuesday 15th December (Years R to 3) and Wednesday 16th December (Years 4 to 6). We will walk down to the church, a year group at a time and we will be cleaning the pews between each service. It is disappointing that we are unable to invite parents to join us for this but sadly there is no option.

Rapunzel: The Lockdown Pantomime

On Wednesday 16th December at 1.30pm, we will be taking part in the interactive online pantomime, Rapunzel. This is a free event for our children although the PTA will be selling glow sticks and other assorted items that the children can wave around to their heart's delight!



Christmas Dinner

Given the current restrictions, Christmas Dinner at school will be a different affair and we need your support to make this happen. On Wednesday 16th December, all Key Stage 1 children will be offered a Christmas dinner and the older children will have their Christmas dinner on Thursday 17th. In order for this to happen, we need parents to provide a packed lunch on the day that their child is not having a Christmas dinner.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals then we are able to provide a school packed lunch although you will need to inform us of this by Friday 11th December.

Wednesday 16 th December	Thursday 17 th December
Year R to 2: Christmas Dinner	Year R to 2: Packed lunches
Year 3 to 6: Packed Lunches	Year 3 to 6: Christmas Dinner

Class Parties

Term will end on Friday 18th December with class parties in the afternoon, whilst we normally request donations of food, we will be purchasing goodies for the children ourselves so parents are off the hook! Children are able to wear their own clothes on this day and school finishes at normal time.

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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| ☆ Farren Y (RAM) for always showing resilience in her learning and kindness towards her peers. <i>Miss Maw</i> | ☆ Isaac J (4ST) for using a super range of conjunctions in his English and for being a kind learning partner and classmate. <i>Mrs Tomsett</i> |
| ☆ Leo W (REC) for his fantastic robot cat model. Your model design was brilliant and you used your creative skills to bring it to life. Well done! <i>Miss Cowley</i> | ☆ Elliot R (4ST) for a really interesting presentation of his super art work. Thank you for sharing it with us. <i>Mrs Saunders</i> |
| ☆ Ines R (1CS) for her excellent contributions in class and confident performance of poetry. <i>Mrs Cork</i> | ☆ Alex C (4JH) for always doing the right thing and helping others. <i>Mr Harris</i> |
| ☆ Alfie C-S (1LA) for his fantastic work counting on using a number line in Maths this week. <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ Elsie C (5JP) for consistently displaying a positive attitude towards her learning. Furthermore, for always upholding the important values of a good friend during break and lunch times. <i>Mr Perfect</i> |
| ☆ Rene M (2FP) for service. Every day this week Rene has gone above and beyond to keep our classroom super tidy. <i>Mrs Franks</i> | ☆ Bella B (5JS) for her fantastic 'black-out' poetry reflecting on Remembrance Day and always going above and beyond in all she does. <i>Miss J Smith</i> |
| ☆ Maya P (2GD) for being a helpful, polite and friendly member of the class setting an excellent example to others. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> | ☆ Andrew D (6NA) for displaying excellent knowledge about William Shakespeare in English and for carrying on his own independent research. <i>Mrs Allen</i> |
| ☆ Eldon B (3SA) for showing great resilience and coping with change this week! <i>Mrs Amelia</i> | ☆ Megan S (6MB) for showing enthusiasm and offering plenty of insightful answers in all aspects of her learning this week. <i>Mr Beard</i> |
| ☆ Millie D (3HA) for her outstanding efforts at school and at home. <i>Miss Allison</i> | |
| ☆ Ethan C (4ST) for always smiling and being enthusiastic. <i>Mrs Saint</i> | |

Plans for a Music Room

I'd like to end by addressing some mixed information that appears to be making its way through parental WhatsApp groups and is also being discussed on the Rec. As you know, there have been a great many projects that have been completed since I joined the school two years ago – we have a Computer Suite, we have our own minibuses for trips and the school library has been completely refurbished with the generous support of the PTA.

It is my hope that our next big project will be a Music Room which I would like to site where the swimming pool used to be. This was discussed at the recent PTA meeting which took place in October and I would like to detail my plans in order to address some of the comments I am hearing.

When I first visited Bridge School almost three years ago, I was very impressed with the profile of music in the school and felt that this was something that I could help build upon. At my last school, we built a purpose-built music room with a small seating and stage area and it is something similar to this that I hope to replicate at Bridge.



Over the past couple of days I've heard of comments that we're building a cinema room, that the PTA raised £20,000 for the Clubb House which has been spent on the minibuses as well as other comments – none of which I regard as fact.

It was also mentioned at the PTA meeting that a similar project has been discussed before with some parents commenting on the 'Clubb House' and others talking about the school's plans to purchase a yurt. These are things that I have no knowledge of and am having difficulty finding any records of, therefore I think it's best to draw a line under this and move forward with the plans we do have.

We are very much at the beginning stages of this project which is likely to take a few years as this won't be a cheap undertaking. I had a meeting with a potential builder during the February half-term but obviously the pandemic has delayed things. I will be keeping all parents informed about this project once we are 'up and running' which is unlikely to be before Easter.

Have a good weekend.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Tibbles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

James Tibbles

Latest Blog Posts

Highlights from the week's selection of blog posts.

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11th November 2020



Year 5 Remembrance Day

Today in Year 5 we have spent time learning about Remembrance Day and why we take time to reflect on this day. The children have created these lovely 'Black-Out' poems.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

11th November 2020



Remembrance in Year 3

Today the children shared readings, poems and stories about why we celebrate and recognise November 11th each year. They went on to create their own wonderful display of Poppies.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

13th November 2020



Golfing Success

Well done, Christina (Year 5) for her amazing achievement in a golf competition: the Friday's Stableford Juniors.

[CONTINUE READING >](#)

