

Preesall Fleetwood's Charity School

Newsletter

Friday 26th November



‘ and those the LORD has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy
will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will
overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee
away.’

Isaiah 35:10

Highlights of the week

- Our Anti-Bullying Worship – each class presented the work they had done in class during Anti-Bullying Week. Not only were the presentations fabulous, there were some really important messages coming through about respecting each other's differences and being kind. We are now developing a whole school Anti-Bullying Charter.
- Year 6 have completed their Bikeability training – 16 pupils managed to achieve Stage 2 and are now competent to cycle on the roads.
- School has been full of beautiful singing this week as groups prepare for our choir events, the Nativity and the Carol Service.



Bake off

Are you a budding baker?

Introducing the first annual 'Great School On The Hill Bake Off'!

Entry is just £1 and there will be 4 categories - children's cake, children's festive bakes and biscuits, adults' cake, and adults' festive bakes and biscuits. Spread the word - parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, neighbours, siblings and pupils are all welcome to enter. Judging will be on Friday 3rd December in the morning (so bakes need to be in school by 10am), and the winners will be announced at the school fair that evening.

Please see attached poster.

Christmas After School Clubs

We are running 2 'special' after school clubs on Thursday 2nd and Thursday 16th December—late night Christmas shopping night! Each session is £6 and will run 3:30pm—6pm and will include drinks and a snack. The first session will be Christmas crafts and the session on 16th is a Christmas film with a hotdog. Please book on using ParentPay—Christmas Shopping After School Club.

Lunches

Can ALL parents please select arrangements for lunches next week using the form below.

<https://forms.office.com/r/exTQMJtNLL>

Lancaster Lights Switch On

Miss Gemma and her dancers from Laura Sandham School of Dance in Lancaster (including some familiar faces) are performing at the Lancaster lights switch on—Sunday 28th November at 2pm.

Christmas dinner (Christmas Jumper Day in school)

Though Christmas Lunch is not until 15th December, can you please indicate whether your child would be having lunch on that date by using the form below. Thanks you to the 60 responses we have had so far.

<https://forms.office.com/r/d5evTLaJJV>

Dates for your diary:

Christmas Light Switch on—Knott End—Saturday 27th November - 4:15pm

Raffle tickets deadline—Wednesday 1st December

Christmas Fair —Friday 3rd December—3:30pm—5:30pm

Knott End Library Christmas Coffee Morning—Saturday 4th December—10:30am

Toy Service— Sunday 5th December—St Oswald's Church—10:30am

Nativity—Thursday 9th December 2pm and 6:30pm

School Christmas Dinner—Wednesday 15th December—£2.35 via ParentPay

Christmas Jumper day in school—Wednesday 15th December

Carol Service—Wednesday 15th December—St Oswald's Church—6:30pm

Lancaster on Ice trip—some Y5 & Y6 - Thursday 16th December

School Close for Christmas —Friday 17th December—1:30pm

Carol Concert— Sunday 19th December—St Oswald's Church—10:30am

INSET day—Tuesday 4th January

School opens for pupils—Wednesday 5th January

Advent calendar

Father Andy has kindly donated advent calendars for each pupil—they will be sent home on Monday.

Holidays in term-time

Headteachers are not allowed to authorize holidays during term-time. I have authorized some holidays this term as I recognize that parents have had holidays cancelled due to Covid and have not necessarily been given a choice of dates when rearranging.

Raffle Tickets

Please can we have one more big push over the next few days? This is a brilliant way to raise funds for school. We will be putting the names of all pupils who have returned their tickets in a draw next Thursday.

We have some incredible prizes including;

£100 cash

Restaurant vouchers

Free Reiki session

Chocolates, biscuits, wine and other treats

Temple Spa voucher

Wyre Valley Eggs voucher

Dawn's Tea Rooms voucher

The Cartford Inn voucher

Hampers, and ***much*** more!

School Events

There are a lot of events over the next few weeks. Thank you for volunteering your children to attend church services and choir events. We really enjoy taking part in local community events but I also recognize that you are all very busy! Please come along to any of the events listed in the Diary Dates below.

St. Aidan's pupils collecting siblings

I understand that some parents require their older, high school children to collect their younger siblings at home time. Please can you ask that they do not bring friends onto the school site? This week I have had to ask several groups of teenagers to leave the playground; I have also had reports of teenagers vaping on the school site. If they travel home with friends, I am happy for friends to wait off site until the younger children have been collected.

Parents' Forum

Please find attached the Headteacher's response from the questionnaires.

Poppy Appeal

This year we have raised £134 for the Royal British Legion.



Covid Cases

We currently have four Covid cases in school: one in pre school, one in Oak, one in Willow Class and possibly an adult in Ash Class. Please be vigilant for any signs or symptoms and get tested if necessary. I would recommend using lateral flow tests on a regular basis as I am very conscious that if we have a surge of cases, we will have to rethink some of our forthcoming events. In school, we will step up hand-sanitising/washing and keep the school well ventilated.

CALLING ALL BAKERS...

ENTER THE 'GREAT SCHOOL
ON THE HILL BAKE OFF'



03.12.21

£1 TO ENTER // PRIZES FOR ADULTS
AND CHILDREN // CAKE, BISCUITS
AND FESTIVE BAKES



Christmas Fair



When: Friday 3rd December 3:30 pm-5:30 pm

Where: Preesall Fleetwood's Charity School
Hall

Why: To raise money to give our children
amazing learning opportunities!

Loads of amazing prizes to be won,
games to play and crafts to be
purchased! Don't miss it!



Parents' Forum: Friday 26th November

Response to Feedback:

Communication with parents

Parents like the platform we use – Class Dojo and feel this has improved communication. They also like the weekly newsletters and feel that in general they are well informed about what is going on in school. Parents like our Facebook page.

Improvements:

- There are too many posts on Class Dojo
- Posts can be missed especially
- Consider best times to send out posts
- Avoid sudden changes/cancellations
- Paper copies of newsletter

HT's Response:

Class Dojo has grown and we are now able to use it more effectively as a communication tool. As well as classes, we can set up different groups for quick and easy communication to specific parents.

Staff have been asked to think about timings of posts (ideally at the end of the school day) although this is not always possible.

Sometimes there will be a high volume of posts e.g. now in the run up to Christmas, we have so many events that it is inevitable that there will be a higher number of posts.

We appreciate that posts can be missed – this is the same as any form of communication – letters can be lost and emails can be missed. If parents get into the habit of checking Class Dojo a couple of times during the day, this should be avoided.

Where possible, we try to think and plan ahead to give plenty of notice. Unfortunately, sometimes there are short notice cancellations due to illness or bad weather which are unavoidable.

As a school we are trying to be more eco-friendly and reduce our carbon footprint. For this reason, we are not going to go back to sending out paper copies of the newsletter but we will send out paper copies of important letters, especially if they have slips for parents to sign.

Reporting on Pupil Progress

Parents were pleased with the Zoom Parents' Evenings during lockdowns and also appreciated regular phone calls from class teachers.

Improvements:

- More feedback required on individual pupil progress and attainment through the year

- Better communication with parents when pupils are struggling with areas of their learning

HT's Response

I fully recognise that this is an area that needs improving. The second lockdown in the spring term made reporting on progress and attainment very difficult as we didn't assess pupils until the summer term.

We will continue to have two Parents' Evenings in the year – being able to use Zoom and phone calls has helped teachers to connect with more parents.

Each half-term, pupils will bring home an evaluation of learning sheet where they will evaluate how they feel about their learning and the teacher will add targets for the next term.

At the end of the autumn and spring terms, pupils will have a short report on attainment and progress which will show parents which areas they are on track in and where they are behind age related expectations.

In the summer term, pupils will receive a full detailed report which from summer 2022 will also include any statutory data.

In addition, teachers will send home a letter to inform parents of any intervention groups children are attending. These run for 15 weeks after which there will be a short progress update. Next due – last week in January.

Teachers are encouraged to meet with parents if they feel a child has a barrier to learning which could potentially be a form of special educational need, to discuss steps forward. When pupils are assessed for SEN, parents will be informed of the findings and if a child is placed on the SEN register, the parent will be invited into school each term to talk through the Individual Progress Plan that has been set and also to review progress towards previous targets.

Assessment of pupils is an on-going process and is built into lessons. Key assessment points for more formal assessment are end of autumn and spring term, May for Year 2 and Year 6 SATS and end of June for all other year groups.

Statutory testing also includes baseline assessment at the start of Reception, Year 1 phonics in June, (current Year 2 will do this in December) and the new Year 4 Multiplication test.

3. Range of Extra-Curricular Activities

Many parents said that we have a wide range of clubs and activities available and are very happy with what is on offer. Some parents said there needed to be more variety for different age groups.

Improvements:

- More sports – wider variety (heavy focus on dance)
- Something to meet interests of all pupils

HT's Response

For a relatively small school, I think we offer an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities.

Last year: football, tennis, archery, forest, gardening, dance, science, art, board games, cooking, samba (probably more!)

The problem last year was that due to bubbles, clubs had to be offered to classes so it meant only 1 class was offered each activity.

We use some of our Sports Premium Funding to buy in services from Fleetwood Town. They provide a wide range of sports activities and clubs for our pupils. Last year, this was limited due to not being able to have visitors in school.

We are also relying on staff volunteering to run clubs.

The Laura Sandham School of Dance use our school as a satellite centre so although it looks like we offer a lot of dance, these are not actually our clubs but additional opportunities for our pupils.

In the spring, we will be offering both netball and football and there will be more sports activities bought in from Fleetwood Town. We request clubs but it depends on the availability of the coaches. Sometimes instead of an extra-curricular club, we choose for the whole class to experience a sport in PE – Year 5 and 6 have had Quidditch and Basketball this term.

Through the year, there will be a range of clubs offered – the aim is to try to find something for everyone. We currently have a chess club which is very popular and many children are part of the choir.

After Christmas, I will meet with the School Council to get ideas of the types of clubs they would like us to run.

Other Points:

- More eco work – encouraging pupils to be environmentally friendly

Mrs Oxley has just set up an Eco-Warriors group who will be working on reducing our carbon footprint and engaging the school in some environmentally friendly projects. This is something that we are passionate about and it links to our Christian ethos of caring for God's world.

- More support for mental health and well-being

This year, Mrs Potter has an almost full-time role as SENCO/Learning Mentor so that we can support pupils' mental health needs more effectively and also offer support to parents. We are also developing strong links with outside agencies to enable us to be able to signpost parents in the right direction for support.

- Later After-School Club

This is in place. Pupils can attend after-school club until 5:30 or 6:00 pm if required.

More monitoring at playtimes

Pupils are now split at playtimes so they are not all outside at once apart from the 10 minute afternoon break. There are 3 adults outside on each break – previously we have had two.

- More fruit available at lunch time

There is always fruit available for pupils on school lunches. Our Reception and KS1 pupils get free fruit each day and pupils are encouraged to bring fruit for a snack at break times.

- Wearing PE kit on PE day

We recognised this as being a positive from last year and so have kept it in place. We have introduced our PE hoodies and specific requirements so that pupils look smart in their PE kits.