



# Newsletter Friday 24th November 2023

2 Chronicles 15:7

But as for you, be strong and courageous, for your work will be rewarded."

Dear Parent/Carers,

The Christmas period is rapidly approaching bringing with it a very busy time in school. The infants will be delivering the nativity story to remind us about the true meaning of the season. The older children will be presenting a rousing sing-a-long. Plus, Friends will be hosting a Christmas Bingo Evening with pie and peas on the 14th December. Of course, the children will have their usual parties and special visitors.

However the day to day business needs to continue around this fun and frivolity. We can only teach children if they are in school. Today's attendance (Thursday 23rd November) was 88% - our target is 97%. I know children cannot help being ill but figures so low is something we do not usually experience.

The impact of a day off here and there can be massive for your child. Teaching and learning is sequential, one thing builds upon another and moves along quickly. Imagine your child's learning like a brick wall with one or two bricks missing in each row. The wall isn't solid and the gaps are tricky to fill. Each absence is potentially creating a gap in your child's learning and making it hard for them to keep up with their peers.

Aside from affecting their potential outcomes, lots of absences can also damage friendships. Friendships are built on trust and dependability. If a friend is regularly off it can disrupt those bonds.

So please:

- \* Don't take holidays or extended leave in term time.
- \* Be on time! 10 minutes late twice a week over a term adds up to 2.5 hours of missed learning and socialising.
- \* Think really carefully before keeping your child off due to illness, we will always ring you if they are struggling.

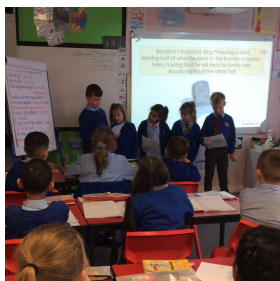
If you think you might need some help and support around attendance, do not hesitate to contact us.

Kindest Regards

Mrs M.M. Underwood



For community week in year 5, we explored all the different areas within our community that help make it a positive place. The children explored the positive impact that Colne Youth Action Group, Food For All and Right at Home have had on different areas within our community. The class then reached out to the local mosque and made some bracelets that symbolised hope, trust, courage, friendship or any other theme that they thought would help someone feel better. Mrs Ali, the teacher at the mosque, kindly received these gifts for the women who get together every month for a social event. The children also received a visit from the local police, who answered a range of questions and educated the children on how to stay safe in our community as well as how to help others.



As part of Community Week, Reception and Year 1 spent time at Nelson Manor Care Home meeting some of the residents. We enjoyed reading, playing dominoes, singing songs and colouring pictures together. The afternoons were such a success that we are going to continue visiting our new friends regularly. The children really enjoyed talking to new people and were very confident and comfortable around new people.



# Community Week



In Year 6, we explored the issue of loneliness. We looked at Age Concern's isolation adverts which highlight this issue as well as exploring projects which aim to tackle it. Our House Captains visited a coffee morning held at Cornerstones Church in Nelson to see how their weekly meeting allowed members of the community to talk over a cup of tea. We then invited members of our community to join a coffee morning held in our school hall. We welcomed lots of visitors to share flapjacks (made by ourselves) and a game of noughts and crosses.

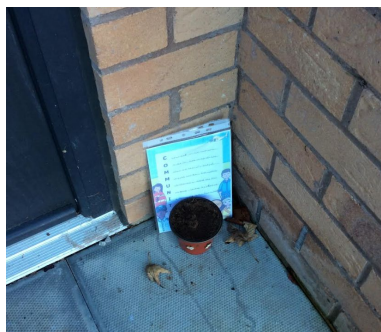




In Year 4, our focus for Community Week was Charity. We invited a special guest speaker over from Pendleside Hospice to talk to the classroom. We also set up a donation point where our grownups donated a wide range of things.



As part of Community week year 2 have been thinking about the community we belong to. We talked about people who lived on their own and how they might not access groups in the community. We planted bulbs and delivered them to people in our area so that in spring they would have something lovely to look at and feel part of the GMSJ community. We wrote some lovely poems to go with them.



## Dates for your Diary:

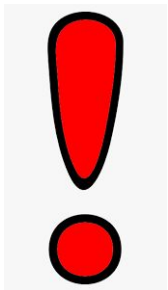
Tuesday 28th November	-	Meeting of Friends 3.30pm
Wednesday 6th December	-	KS2 Carols at Christmas Concert 2.30pm & 6pm
Wednesday 13th December	-	KS1 Whoops a daisy angel nativity 2.30pm & 6pm
Thursday 14th December	-	Christmas Bingo 6pm
Monday 18th December	-	Christingle 9am
Thursday 21st December	-	School closes for Christmas Break 2pm
Monday 8th January	-	School starts at 8.45am



Our Next Meeting of Friends will be held on Tuesday 28th November at 3.30pm. All parents are welcome to attend, and childcare will be available.

## Thank you

We would like to say a big Thank you for everyone who helped out with our Community week. We received lots of donations and help. This was greatly appreciated.



## Head Lice Alert :

There have been a few reports of head lice this week around school.

Please check your child's hair regular for any Head Lice. Children with long hair should have this tied up neatly.



# Good News Announcements



## ATTENDANCE WINNERS

Our winners W/C 13/11/23 were:  
Year 5



## This weeks Medal Winners are:

Olivia	- Year 2 - Super Poems about the community
Noel	- Year 2 - Super Poems about the community
Willow	- Year 1 - Improved sentences
Teddy	- Year 1 - Super sentences

# Parent Checklist



Head Lice - Remember to check your child's hair regularly. There have been several reports of headlice in school recently.

Can you attend the next meeting of friends on Tuesday 28th November at 3.30pm?  
Child care will be available.

Is your child off sick or due an appointment? Please inform the office of any sickness or absences before 9am and try and arrange appointments out of school hours where necessary.

Please ensure we have your up to date Phone number and Email address. This is vital that we have the correct information. If you have any doubts please call in to the office and we can check.

Remember to keep an eye out for a letter coming home explaining how to get tickets for the Christmas Productions.

Is your PE kit in school and fully labelled? Remember Fitness Friday each week -  
Wear your Trainers.