

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our sixth school newsletter of the academic year 2023 to 2024.

Book Fair Success!

We have raised £543.00 on the Scholastic Book Fair this week! Thank you so much for all of your purchases. A percentage of the money raised will go back to the children, we will be using it to purchase books for classroom book corners. Updates to follow.

Parking in the community - polite request

We have been contacted by the Texaco garage on Warwick Road to request that parents do not park and leave their cars on the forecourt whilst they are dropping children off at school in the morning. Many thanks.

Ogden Science Launch Day

The children had a fantastic day on Wednesday during their science workshops. The children in Y3-6 had a workshop with 'The Science Magician' and Y1 & 2 had a session with Dr Jenny Watson. A huge thank you to Mr Seabrook for organising this, not only for our children, but also the children at 5 other local schools. Our work with the Ogden Trust will continue throughout the year, we look forward to sharing further updates with you.

Kindness, Anti-bullying & Odd Socks Day

Thank you for your support last week as we made a noise against bullying! The children loved their visit from Alex Holmes, spread words of kindness with our kindness competition and enjoyed wearing Odd Socks to end the week. Have a look at some pictures below.



The kindness competition raised £156.23 for our Creating Futures Fund. Thank you so much!

Successful Parent Consultation Meetings

It was lovely to see so many parents and guardians in school this week for our parent consultation meetings. The children have had such a positive start to this academic year, we are so proud of them and the staff have enjoyed being able to celebrate their successes with you. Thank you for your continued support.

Reading Challenge

Please see the poster at the end of this newsletter.

Key dates section:

20th & 21st December - Y4 SPARKS workshop with the West Midlands Fire Service - looking at Fire Safety

21st December @ 2:45pm - whole school Art / DT Exhibition afternoon - all parents welcomed

22nd December - school closed for staff training

8th January - school re-opens for the spring term

Festive Calendar

Please find a list of festive events at the end of this newsletter.

Breakfast Bagels

The first couple of weeks of our new Breakfast Bagel bar has been a great success. We are handing out **free bagels for children** who have, for whatever reason, not had breakfast at home on a particular morning.

We are only able to toast a limited number of bagels each morning. Once the bagels have all gone that is it until the following day.

The bagels are provided at a heavily discounted price through a nationwide Government funded scheme: The National School Breakfast Programme. We fund the remaining cost after this discount through the money we make from our after school cake sales.

We are happy to let adults have a bagel, however we do request a donation. Any donations received will go back into buying future bagels.

Due to the limited number of bagels we have available each morning please can we request that you do not deliberately choose not to give your child breakfast. We cannot guarantee that there will be bagels available when you arrive at the bagel bar. Unfortunately, there may also be some mornings that we might not have bagels available due to delivery times/availability from our suppliers.

Up and coming Events

- Friday 1st December - Clown Show after school being organised by our wonderful parent volunteers. The event is open to all children & families. We are fundraising for the Creating Futures Fund. Tickets are being sold by parents on the playground at home times everyday until Thursday 30th November. The tickets are pink and purple and are £3 each.
- If you would like to enter the raffle for a chance to win a small prize, orange raffle tickets are £1. Any queries, please contact the main office.

Parent Workshops

- Wednesday 29th Nov - Zones of Regulation & supporting children to regulate their emotions - led by Mrs Herring
- Wednesday 6th December - Online Safety: Myth Musting & adding parental controls to devices - led by Mr Haydon
- Wednesday 13th December - Social Media Safety - led by Mr Haydon
- Wednesday 20th December - GP visit - coughs/colds & illnesses - led by a local GP (tbc)

All workshops to take place in the main hall from 8.45am (after school drop off). Please come to the doors at the back of the main hall where you will be greeted by the staff member leading the training . They can sign you in and give you a parent visitor lanyard. Tea, coffee and refreshments will be provided.

Greet Attendance

Below are the attendance champions from last week.

Year group	Attendance	Class	Attendance
Year 5	97.06%	6RB	99.14%
Year 6	96.89%	6SW	98.61%
Year 4	95.09%	5GA	98.28%
Year 2	93.36%	5DH	97.22%
Year 3	91.96%	5HM	96.94%
Reception	89.79%	4RI	96.84%
Year 1	86.81%	6SB	96.11%

House points

Congratulations to all the children in **Harewood** who are our house points winners this week.

1st – Harewood

2nd – Cadbury

3rd – Simmonds

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on

BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tablet *The Register*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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50 Books

Our NEW Reading Challenge

We are excited to launch our new 50 Books Reading Challenge.

In Years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 we have identified 50 age appropriate books for the children to read.

We have purchased a copy of each book for the children to borrow. Copies of many of these books are also available in Sparkhill library.

Children (and teachers!) are being challenged to read as many of these books as they can.

Rewards will be given when children reach key milestones:

Earn Rewards!	
Finished 5 books	5 House Points
Finished 10 books	10 House Points
Finished 25 books	GRIT certificate
Finished 50 books	Enter into a mystery prize draw!

We have been busy putting up display areas in each year group area for these special books.



Every child will be given a reading challenge record booklet on Monday next week (27th) following our launch assembly.

These booklets will be kept in school. A copy can be found on our website (link below) so parents & guardians can support children in knowing which books to read.

[50 Books Reading Challenge](#)

Festive Calendar 2023

Thursday 30 th November	Christmas decorations go up around school
Friday 1 st December	Festive Friday! The children will finish off this week decorating their classrooms.
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Jumper Day We will be raising money for Save the Children – all children & staff to wear Christmas jumpers (own clothes are fine if you don't have festive jumpers) and bring in £1.00 for charity, or as much as you can.
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Panto! The children will watch a screening of Jack & the Beanstalk By Panto Online. SLT to have the children in the hall, staff to have data input time.
Monday 11 th	Christmas Hamper donations Please bring in any donations for our family Christmas Hampers today.
Tuesday 12 th Thursday 14 th Friday 15 th	Christmas Performances EYFS, Christmas Choir & Y5/6 Music Electives to perform their festive production to children and parents.
Monday 18 th December	Festive Sing Song! Outdoor sing song in the main playground – all classes & parents @ 3.00pm
Wednesday 20 th December	Christmas Dinner Children and staff will be served a festive meal in the dining hall complete with crackers & party hats!
Thursday 21 st December	Christmas party morning Christmas singing assemblies

	Christmas parties in classes
	Christmas Hamper delivery Christmas Hampers delivered to our families in need
	Art / DT Exhibition afternoon @ 2.45pm
	School closes to pupils for the Christmas holidays @ 3.15pm



Ho ho ho!
Let the festive fun begin!