

Together Everyone Achieves More



**Exhall
Junior School**

Newsletter

NOVEMBER

*"Fear not November's
challenge bold—*

We've books and friends,

*And hearths that never
can grow cold"*

WELCOME BACK!

Dear Families,

As we get closer to the end of term it seems there is more and more being squeezed into each week!

This month we've had Diwali dance workshops, visits to museums, an artist has been in to support us in a local art project, work on Anti-bullying week and a Mental Health Awareness day. All this at the same time as fitting in Topic, Maths and English ... Sometimes the talent and time management skills of the teachers amazes me! The next few weeks will be no different I am sure.

I hope you get a bit of a flavour of everything that's been happening from our from this newsletter, and keep an eye on the school calendar [LINK](#)

Goodbye, Mr Lee

As you are aware Mr Lee, our Deputy Headteacher, will be leaving Exhall Junior's at Christmas. The fantastic news is that he is moving on to be the Head teacher of St John's in Kenilworth, a well deserved promotion.

Mr Lee has been here a relatively short time, however he had shown great dedication and commitment to the children. We know he will be a fabulous Headteacher, and St John's is lucky to be getting such a talented leader. I am sure that parents and carers would like to join me in wishing him good luck and happiness in his new role.

Plans have already been made to cover the roles Mr Lee has until a suitable appointment can be made.

Parent/Carer Focus Groups

Thank you to those parents/carers who could make our focus group meetings with senior leaders of the school. It was lovely to hear such positive comments about the school, and also the areas we need to work on.

Some highlights are below:

Visibility of staff – *parents felt that having staff out in the morning and afternoon gave them a sense of their children being safe. The Headteacher being on the gate was a positive, it was good to know who he was!*

Inclusiveness - *parents liked how the school celebrates different religions/cultures through events/its curriculum.*

Pride Assembly – *parents liked to see their children being praised when the assemblies were sent to them. They commented that it was heartening to see that the school celebrates its values every week. One parent also said that they also liked seeing other classmates celebrating their child's success.*

Name Change – *this was seen as a very positive support for the learning journey of both schools, a simple idea that would help all carers /parents see where their child was moving to.*

And areas to work on:

Homework - *Maths support is needed. Parents feel very unsure on how maths is taught.*

Reading/grammar support is needed – *there are quite high technical demands that parents feel quite unskilled to support their child with now.*

Double drop offs - *are causing a major headache. Parents liked the pandemic 'soft*

start' by Cedars that allowed a calmer start to the day. As a parent myself who did have to do this, I understand the stress and strain this causes.

Community Events - *The school needs to do more community events, when it is safe to do so. In the past, the school put on bonfire night/discos/bingo – this helped to show the school, and Exhall, off and build strong community ties.*

Lighting on the front playground - *on dark nights needs to be improved, parents struggled at the end of the disco.*

We will work through these areas and keep you informed. We also plan to have parent/carers focus groups each term. In the meantime, as said before, please feel free to share your thoughts as well, have a chat with any staff member or email the office admin2571@welearn365.com



Another Joint Exhall School Event

There was such a positive feeling from our Exhall picnic in September, it was hoped that we could do more things together. Following a suggestion from Mrs Dorman at Exhall Cedars, we held a joint Children in Need fundraising event where we had our assemblies together via a live link. There were a few sound issues,

but all in all, it was a great way to mark Children in Need Day – thank you, Mrs Dorman. Together we raised over £200!!

Extreme Reading



We had some amazing examples of extreme reading from pupils at Exhall Junior School. Some of you have a wild time whilst you are enjoying a good book!

Everyone who sent in a picture will receive a congratulations certificate for a great submission. Well done

Hot Chocolate Friday

As restrictions reduced Hot Chocolate Fridays began again.

This is when teachers' nominate a student from each class to share a hot chocolate and biscuit with Mr Mann. It is a highlight of the week for him, just to sit and chat with a range of students. It is a great way to end the week.



Remembrance Day

Bedworth – 'The Town That Never Forgets'

On 11 November 2021 our Head Boy, Girl and deputies, supported by Mrs Inman and Mrs Hough, represented Exhall Junior School at the Bedworth Armistice Parade.



Exhall Junior School pupils laid a wreath on behalf of the school and were great ambassadors for us.



At 11.00 am back in school the rest of EJS gathered together outside for a minute's silence. Pupils and staff showed great respect while marking the occasion.

Bringing in the Harvest

It was all hands to the spades as students brought in our potato harvest for the year. After all that hard work it was off to the kitchen to prepare, then eat, an amazing cheese and potato pie – Mr Lee especially enjoyed the fruits of the children's hard work!!



Odd Socks Day

We didn't forget to wear our hats in October, and in November we also raised funds to support the mental health of children and young people across Coventry and Warwickshire. £98.00 was our final total – thank you.



Football Tournament

Miss Smith, Mr Burch and Mr Mann were delighted to be able to take students to their first football tournament this year. Due to Covid we have not been able to complete with other local schools, but the children were finally getting the opportunity to test their skills.



We had success, with one team reaching the semi-finals, however what was great to see was that both team's behaviour and conduct during the tournament was excellent and

they showed real maturity and resilience to never give up. **Assessments**



Attendance

Firstly, and most importantly, a HUGE well done and thank you to the children who have 100% attendance for the academic year to date.

The Department for Education tracks attendance carefully and our aim is to have an attendance figure in excess of the national average of 96.7%.

Obviously attendance levels, especially at this time of year, can be affected by illness, particularly tummy bugs. If your child has been ill with sickness and/or diarrhoea, please keep them off school until they have been symptom free for a minimum of 48 hours to prevent the bug spreading throughout the school community as this has a significant, adverse effect on attendance levels of both children and staff.

Towards the end of this month, the teachers have been working with your children on some assessments of their learning in order for us to determine where any gaps have appeared as a result of the lockdown in March, and what steps are needed to support them in the coming months.

Please do not be alarmed if your child is coming home saying 'we've been testing all day today!' Many of the assessments involve practical or informal questions and are part of our usual teaching and learning and follow closely the schemes of work we use. It is still the Government plan to continue with statutory assessments this academic year so children in Year 4, will be working on their times table facts up to 2x12, and Year 6 will be working towards their end of Key Stage assessments. Parents and carers of children in those year groups will be kept informed of progress and how they can best support from home.

Local Art Project

Thanks to Miss Shepherd, we were lucky to be selected to support a local arts project. The artist was very impressed with the art skills and designs from students which will be incorporated into an artist's final design of a Covid themed wood sculpture/carving for the Miners' Park in Bedworth. The children will be invited to the unveiling which will happen around January/February time.



Diwali

On Friday 5 November the whole school had great fun celebrating Diwali with a day of different creative activities from dance to mendhi to cooking. Mrs Bhav took to the floor to dance with children in traditional costume.



All the children enjoyed the day and now have a better understanding and appreciation of the festive of Diwali.

Friends of Exhall Junior School – Halloween Disco

After a long break from events due to Covid the Friends of EJS held a Halloween Disco after half term. All children were invited to come along and there were some scary outfits on display!



There was fun and dancing and everyone had a spooktakular time! Thank you to the friends for their time and support – the children really enjoyed themselves and over £300 was raised.

Christmas Foodbank Collection

Thank you so much for your kind harvest donations earlier this year, there was so much! It goes to show what a supportive community you are, as prices of food have risen dramatically, money is tight for everyone, but you still support those who are in need the most.



Our Junior Leadership team have suggested that we have that we have a similar collection for Christmas, where donations brought into school will be passed onto the local foodbank. We will have boxes ready for donations and we will arrange for them to be collected – thank you.