

What an eventful half term we had and another busy one leading us up to Christmas to look forward to...

You should all have had information about **parents evenings** and I appreciate your support and patience in using the new communication system to arrange this. We will be contacting parents in Y3AW class to inform them of some alternative arrangements shortly.

Thank you to **FoYPS** for their creative and fun approach to fundraising (and so much more) for our school. The small dedicated team who gave up their Sunday afternoon to create a spooky exciting corridor for the children and who are arranging the disco for this evening are an amazing bunch – many thanks from all of our children. Well done to everyone who entered the Halloween competition, your entries are displayed in the spooky corridor and show your creativity and fun – Congratulations!



We have been able to appoint a new **school cook** and could not be more delighted that our very own Liz Smith has agreed to take up the post. She is a much valued member of staff with a long standing commitment to the school and we are thrilled that she will now get some recognition for her hard work – Thank you Chef!

Christmas lunch will, as last year, be on the last day of term – Tuesday 20th December – if you want your child to take part please ensure you book using MCAS. This will also be Christmas jumper day.

Reminder about the **school Book Fair** – week beginning 7th November – Mr Jefferies will send out a schedule if you wish for your child to bring money in to buy a book (The incidentals which are sometimes part of this event – erasers, slap bands etc. are not being provided this time). Parents are invited if they wish to attend without their children on Wednesday 9th November 3.00 – 4.00pm entry via the small hall door.

Following on from the message sent just before the break – please support us in **keeping our site safe** and keep the pedestrian gates shut. As many of you will be aware, the automatic gates are temperamental (despite our efforts to ensure they are serviced and in good working order) ; so your support in shutting the gates is crucial – thank you.

Christmas in school – we have reflected on the lessons we have learned over the last couple of years, when we had change enforced on us – and being able to focus on the planned curriculum during the half term up to Christmas has been a real gain. So, this year instead of multiple performances in a jam packed school hall, we have negotiated the use of Yarm Auditorium where children from Y1 – Y6 will present their Christmas performance – Winter Song – on Wednesday 14th December at 1.30pm. Admittance will be by ticket only and these will go on sale (£1 per ticket to cover costs) shortly, with 2 tickets per family being available. Our Early Years families will be invited into school to share some Christmas treats with the children – look out for the flyer with details this week. We hope this will be a great experience for the children and of course for our audience and will allow us to continue delivering the planned curriculum right up until the end of term. Ho Ho Ho!

Y2 are organising this year's **Children in Need** charity collection - look out for their flyer coming out this week.

As you may know and as Early Years parents have already been informed, **Miss Puttick** starts her adoption leave soon – we wish her well and look forward to welcoming her and her son into school before the end of term.

The questions the children will be working on this half term include:

- Trains or planes? What is the better invention?
- Where the Tudors really that terrible?
- Does everyone celebrate Christmas?
- Location, Location, Location: How well do you know the world you live in?
- What makes London so special?
- Roar! How do we know dinosaurs existed?
- Anglo Saxons and Vikings: Raiders or educators?
- WW2 Evacuee – should I stay or should I go?

We are developing our deepening knowledge initiative through our retrieval practice work – this includes revisiting themes and using quizzing to extend and

deepen learning. We will send out some information for you next month to tell you more.

Harriet & Noah (our Head Girl and Head Boy) are leading a team to improve areas around school as part of my **community project club**. Their first scheme is the main school library, which since the pandemic is looking very unloved. A BIG THANK YOU to the group who have made a great start in updating and relaunching this important learning space – we are looking forward to opening the library over lunchtimes and to inviting you in to see our work once it is complete. Look out for the story sessions our staff will be offering to your families.

Thank you so much to parents who contact us offering a wide range of **support and resources** for us in school – the books you contribute, games, computers etc. allow us to make the limited resources in our school budget go a little bit further. Also, thinking of us and how your work roles can contribute to the development of our curriculum offer through your skills is another way some people are contributing – thank you so much. If you have an idea around us collaborating please get in touch.

I know that the Early Years team want to THANK YOU for making their '**Porridge day Foodbank appeal**' a tremendous success – our local foodbank are extremely happy that we are continuing to promote this increasingly crucial resource for so many families.

Congratulations to those children contacted by Mrs Tyerman to celebrate their **great attendance**. As we know learning is not episodic, but sequenced to be built upon and developed and absences can significantly interrupt this. Thank you for supporting us in improving our attendance over the past half term – we are moving from good to great with an increase of 4% on this time last year. Y4 you are currently our attendance champions – well done!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

7th & 8th November - Parents evening

Week beginning 7th November - School Book Fair

11th November – Remembrance day

14th – 18th November – Anti-Bullying week - 'Reach out' is the theme for 2022

AND World Nursery Rhyme Week

18th November - Children in Need

21 Nov – 18 Dec – FIFA World Cup

2nd & 5th December – School is closed to pupils for PDDays

6th December - Christmas Tree decorating

14th December - Y1 – Y6 performance – Winter Song

15th December - EY Christmas performance

Christmas Parties – 15th, 16th & 19th December - teams will contact parents separately

Tuesday 20th December - Christmas Jumper day & Christmas lunch

School closes at 3.30pm Tuesday 20th December and reopens Wednesday 4th January 2023

Yours as ever

Mrs Wood

October 2022