

Newsletter

12th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are again, heading towards the busiest time of the year in school and I can't quite believe



December is just around the corner! So far this term, we have seen lots of new learning and new achievements. It has been wonderful to see the school come back to life in so many ways!

Parent Consultation evenings

Thank you so much to everyone who has taken time out to speak with their child's class teacher in our 'Zoom' parent consultation evenings. Covid-19 restrictions permitting, we are hoping to conduct face to face meetings with parents in the Spring Term.



Sporting events

Well done to our Year 6 boys' and girls' football teams who competed in the Egglescliffe Cluster Competition at Northfield School. The boys' team finished 3rd and the girls' team finished 4th. Both teams did our school proud.



We also want to give huge congratulations to the members of our Year 6 tag rugby team who were representing our school and the Stockton Schools Sport Partnership at the Tees Valley Finals. They competed against the top schools from Middlesbrough, Redcar, Hartlepool and Darlington. All of the games were close and the team finished 4th overall - a fantastic achievement for our school. Very well done.

School Council events

Our School Councillors elected for this academic year are:

- Year 6: Max, Lois, Hannah and Josie
- Year 5: Imogen and Mohammed
- Year 4: Imogen and Daisy
- Year 3: Larry and Myrto
- Year 2: Harry and Erin
- Year 1: Nova and Thomas



Mayoral visit

We are hoping to have a visit from the Mayor of Stockton-on-Tees, Councillor Kevin Faulks later this month (Covid-19 restrictions permitting). The School Council are very much looking forward to the visit and learning more about how democracy works and are busy preparing questions to ask him. They will then share what they have found out about the Mayor's role with the rest of the school.

Children in Need - Friday 19th November

This year, the School Council have decided that they would like our school to participate in this event by wearing onesies or pyjamas!

Each child will be asked to donate £1 or more towards the non-uniform day.

The School Council have also organised the following:



A raffle for a Paddington bear. Children will pay 20p per ticket/£1 a strip and these can be purchased before school (under the gazebo) or during the school day starting on Monday November 15th. School councillors will visit the classes to sell the tickets.

Pudsey Bear drawing/colouring competition- this will take place during the morning of November 19th in school. There will be no charge for this competition and members of the School Council will decide on a winning picture from each class. Prizes will be awarded on the day. The children want the theme of the pictures to be 'Pudsey being sporty'.

Parent Pudsey competition- the children would like to invite parents to draw a Pudsey picture and pay 50p to enter. If you would like to show us your art skills, please ensure that your picture has your name and your child's name on the back and send it to school (along with your 50p) by Thursday November 18th. The children will judge a winner and all entries will be displayed in school- good luck!



Parents and Teachers Association (PTA)

It was so lovely to see parents, friends and staff attending our recent PTA meeting. The aim of our PTA is to bring our community back together again and plan events for our children and the community, hopefully doing a spot of fundraising along the way! The next meeting is to be held on the 16th November 2021 at 3.30pm, but due to recent Covid-19 recommendations, we will now need to host this via Zoom. If you would like to attend the meeting or be involved in the PTA in anyway, please email me at helen.gregory@sbcschools.org.uk and Zoom codes will be sent out via email.

I am aware that some people may not be able to make this meeting due to work commitments; the PTA team will be taking this into account for future meetings.



Christmas dates

Before the recent Covid-19 recommendations were issued by our LA, I spent a lot of time talking to the children, asking them what they would like to do this Christmas in school. As you can imagine, I was given a very long list of ideas. We are trying to ensure the children have a 'normal' school Christmas experience this year and I have tried to meet all of their requests. However, due to Covid-19, I have had to tweak some of their wishes to ensure we keep our community safe over the winter period.

Attached to the Newsletter, is a 'Durham Lane Christmas Calendar' please note some of the events could be subject to change due to Covid-19 guidance.

Key dates

- 1st December decorating the Christmas Tree
- 8th December Christmas Lunch and Crazy Christmas dress up day!
- 14th December Early Years Christmas Nativity Performance (pre-recorded and available on our website)
- 16th December- KS1 and KS2 Christmas Performance for children from Year 1 – Year 6 (this will be pre-recorded and available on the school website)
- During December class parties will take place – more information to be shared shortly

We are so sorry that Christmas performances will not be live this year, but this is due to Covid-19 restrictions and recommendations that have been issued by the LA.

Further details will be sent out for all of these events soon. We just thought we would give you plenty of notice, as we know how busy the festive period can be!

Year 1 and Year 2 – Visit to the Arc

We have booked The Tin Foil Astronaut on Friday 10th December at 10.30am. It will be approximately 1 hour long. The children will come to school as normal and we will take a coach to the Arc in the morning and will be back at school in time for lunch.



Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 – Visit to Stockton Riverside College

The KS2 children have a reservation to see a theatrical performance of 'Elf' at Stockton Riverside College. Years 3 and 4 will be attending on Monday



December 6th and Years 5 and 6 will be attending on Tuesday December 7th.

Both performances will be in the morning and the children will be back in school in time for lunch.

To cover the cost of theatre tickets and transport, we are asking for a voluntary donation of **£8.00** for each trip. Further details for both visits, will be shared in separate letters, which will be sent out shortly.

Christmas Raffle and Fayre

In light of the current Covid-19 infection levels, we have made the difficult decision not to host a whole School Christmas Fayre. The children would still like to make some crafts to sell and have some 'Fayre Fun' during the school day. However, the children's crafts will only be sold to their current class community. More details will be shared soon.

The children loved the 'Live Raffle' on Facebook, last Christmas and have requested that Miss Drew and Miss Hugill are the comperees again! The children would like Chocolate and Sweet hampers to be key elements of the raffle, but any prizes would be most welcome. If you would like to donate, or you know of any companies who would like to help us with some prizes for our Christmas raffle, we would really appreciate it!!

Thank you

Finally, I would just like to thank all the staff in school for their dedication and hard work. We are a very fortunate team to be working with such supportive families and we would also like to thank you for your continuous support.

Kind regards,
H Gregory

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