

22.10.21



Challenge, Equality & Opportunity

News, Information and Reminders

Harvest

Thank you to the Y4 parents and carers who attended Harvest this afternoon. We really enjoyed having guests back in school and the children were really thrilled to see you all. They did a marvellous job in leading the assembly and we were really proud of them. Fingers crossed that we can have more children presenting to visitors during the year ahead, and especially in the run up to Christmas...

Thanks also to everyone who has brought in a contribution for our harvest collection. We sent much of the collection with Jason from the Salvation Army. The rest will be picked up by the West End Food Bank after half term.



PSHE Consultation

Thank you for your responses. We will collate these and share with Governors next half term. We will then feed back any general themes to you all.

Parking

Thanks to the manager at the Three Mile Inn on the Great North Road who has agreed to parents and carers parking in their car park on the school run. It takes about 5 minutes to walk from there to the school and we hope that if some of you choose this instead of driving all of the way to school, the area around school would be safer and cleaner. Thanks also to Jess Quinn for following this up for us, her face to face approach worked much better than my email!

Grapes

Please remember to cut grapes in half if you are sending them into school as part of a packed lunch or a snack. All grapes from the school kitchen are cut in half vertically because when whole, they represent a choking hazard. We have had several incidents in school where we have had to use first aid to prevent children from choking. Thank you for your cooperation.



Drinks and Snacks in School

Children in KS2 are welcome to bring a fruit or vegetable snack into school each day. These should be as simple as possible and unprocessed so that they are comparable with the fruit and veg snacks provided for Reception and KS1.



All children in school should have a water bottle with them every day. These can be refilled at school during the day. Children should not bring juice to school unless parents or carers have had a conversation with their child's class teacher and have made a prior arrangement.

Squid Game and Dangerous Play



It has come to our attention that a number of children in school have been watching Squid Game on Netflix or clips of the programme on YouTube and TikTok. The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) has awarded Squid Game a 15 rating in the UK for "sexual violence references, injury detail, crude humour, sex, suicide, sexual images and violence". As well as the very obvious worry of our children being exposed to these themes before they are mature enough to understand them, we have witnessed some unsafe play outside when children are mimicking some of the games from the programme. This is a safeguarding issue and is causing concern in many schools at the current time. Please ensure that your child is not able to access content from the programme and let us know if you need more information about how to keep your children safe online.

Children in Need

Children in Need day is on Friday 19th November. We will have a non-uniform day (children can choose what they wear to school on that day but as usual, we encourage lots of spots!) and parents/carers can make donations to Children in Need via ParentMail. We will set up a payment and send a reminder nearer the time.



School Council and Anti Bullying Week



We are delighted to have a new school council and what a great team they are! They met with Miss Campbell last week and are very keen to do something to mark anti-bullying week. The theme this year is 'One Kind Word' and we are having an odd socks day on Monday 15th November to raise awareness. Odd socks remind us that it is OK to be different but we can still work together and include everyone! Children can be as outrageous or as low key as they wish with their unmatched socks, legwarmers, tights...



Free School Meals Provision at Half Term

Eligible families should now have received a voucher via email to cover the cost of their child's free school meal entitlement over half term. Please contact the school office if you have any issues.

Training Day

Please don't forget that Monday 1st November is a training day and so school is closed to children. Teaching staff will be in school working on curriculum development and will be looking forward to seeing all children on Tuesday 2nd November.

New Build Update

We are currently working on the outdoor environment and working with Robertson and another contractor to finalise the design and requirements for Reception's outdoor learning area, the Forest School Provision, the outdoor learning and dining area, the yard and the all of the cycle and scooter storage on site. Inside the building, there are more internal walls completed and the windows are almost finished. The underfloor heating is being installed in the halls. It is becoming more real and more exciting every week!

Next half term we are starting work on the New School Travel Plan and we will be working with the LA on plans for transport for the Summer Term. We will keep you up to date with this important work.

The pupil design team made some decisions about the logo and future uniform last week. We will share this with everyone as soon as we have the final logo agreed with the graphic designer and we have confirmed our preferences with the uniform supplier. Please remember that any changes to uniform and the logo will be gradually phased in so that everyone is encouraged to outgrow or wear out all of their current uniform. We want to make sure that no one feels disadvantaged or out of pocket.

I hope that you all have a safe half term with some time for rest and recuperation! We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 2nd November.

Best wishes

Helen McKenna
Headteacher

