

Newsletter

December 2019



Message from the Head Teacher

In lieu of my usual introduction to the newsletter, I am reserving my welcome message to highlight a very important issue which I consider to be an accident waiting to happen.

Unfortunately, the parking situation at drop off and pick up times seems to be getting worse, especially on Parkways and the surrounding side streets. There have been reports of verbal aggression towards local residents who have requested that cars blocking their drives are moved and situations where multiple cars have blocked the road in a standoff situation refusing to move. I am also aware that a wheelie bin was knocked over on the pavement by a vehicle. Luckily this was not one of our pupils on this occasion (our EYFS pupils are often shorter than a wheelie bin) but I fear that it is only a matter of time until a serious accident does happen. In response to these concerns, I have contacted the police again and requested their support to enforce the parking situation. I have also formally written to one of the local councillors so that the situation can be highlighted at a higher level with a range of agencies. I will also be writing to local residents on affected streets to advise them of the above and provide the details of how to report the details of vehicles that are parking in a dangerous and inconsiderate manner. The school will formally report any instances of dangerous parking, driving and/or abusive behaviour that it directly witnesses but requests that parents/carers who witness dangerous incidents report these to the police by phoning 101 or online on the West Yorkshire Police website. I implore all parents and carers to park safely and considerately before one of our pupils is injured- it could be your child who is seriously hurt or worse for the sake of a slightly shorter walk to the school gate.

Mr Horton

Christmas non-uniform day

On Thursday 19th December, we will be serving our Christmas dinner. On this day, we will also be having a non-uniform day. Pupils and staff are invited to wear a Christmas outfit- this could be something with Christmas colours, party outfit or Christmas jumper. Please no fancy dress costumes or sports kits. There is no charge for this non-uniform day.

Christmas Events

We have lots of exciting events planned over the next two weeks. This week we have our EYFS performance on Tuesday and Wednesday (10th Dec at 10.45am and 11th Dec at 2.00pm). Please note the earlier start time as after rehearsing, the EYFS production has a slightly longer than expected running time. EYFS will also welcome parents for their Christmas craft afternoon on Thursday.

Next week, we are also looking forward to the KS1 performance on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th both at 2.30pm. We will end the term with our KS2 Carol Service on Friday 20th at 2.30pm. I am looking forward to holding this on the last day of term as it never fails to get me well and truly into the Christmas Spirit. I hope that you can join us for what will surely be 2 weeks of magical and memorable festive events.

Shoebox appeal

Mr Westmoreland would like to say a huge thank you to the school community. In total, we collected 71 boxes! These were taken to Rothwell St Mary's church by representatives from most year groups. As we speak, they are on the way to a destination in Liberia. Further details of Operation Christmas Child can be found at www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk Thank you to Mr Westmoreland for organising this for us.

Artsmark Award

Following our Samba Jam! event and follow up recycled art exhibition, themed around ocean pollution, we submitted a case study to Arts Council England. We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded Artsmark status and received a silver award to recognise our commitment to celebrating and promoting the arts in school. A huge thank you to Mrs Thorpe who coordinated this before she left Oulton at the end of the school year.



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Colder Weather

Hopefully, the weather will be kind this year and we will avoid any major snow disruption. However, if heavy snow is forecast/falls, we will always try to keep the school open. This is not always possible and depends both on the condition of the site and having enough staff available to safely operate the school. We will always try and give advanced notice of any closure, but this is not always possible as conditions can change very quickly. If needed, we will try and make a swift decision and let parents/carers know via text, school website, Twitter, Facebook, Leeds City Council Website and local radio stations. Where necessary, we may offer a later start to allow the site to be prepared for pupils to arrive and for local roads to clear. As we have done in previous years, we may also make changes to drop off arrangements and ask parents to drop off at the hall doors to limit the area of the site that needs clearing.

We have had a few frosty mornings over the last few weeks. Our KS2 playground gets very slippery and Mr Westmoreland always tries to ensure that there is a gritted path along the playground from the different entrances. On frosty days, please closely supervise your children before school and ensure that they are not sliding and/or playing on any frozen patches. Please promptly follow any instructions given by staff regarding areas to avoid etc. as they are looking after everyone's safety.

POPS Christmas Fair

It was great to see so many families supporting our Christmas fair and it was very well attended. The class stalls were as popular as always and competition between the classes was as high as always! Thank you to POPS for their hard work in organising this event as it takes a lot of time, effort and commitment. We really value the support that POPS give the school and the funds that they raise to further enrich school for all pupils. Once we have a final total, we will let you know how much we raised.

Children in Need- Spotacular day

Thank you for all of your support with our fundraising efforts for Children in Need. The children enjoyed many activities during the week including a spot hunt and staff spot the difference. The Twister competition was also very popular and the final was hotly contested in our Friday assembly where Mr Horton also received his rather large bald spot. In total, we raised £460. Thank you to School Council and Miss Brown for coordinating the events for us.

Book Fair

Our book fair was extremely popular this year and took over £1,400. School receives 10% of this total to spend on ½ price books and Mrs Brookes is already looking at using this to buy new books for our library. Thank you for your continued support.

Interactive Displays

Over the Christmas break, we are replacing all the interactive boards and projectors in each classroom from Nursery to Year 6. After years of use, our current equipment is no longer working as well as it should and many of the projectors are in desperate need of replacement. After the break, the children will return to each classroom with a new 65" touch screen which can be used more effectively during lessons to support teaching and learning.

INSET

Reminder: School is closed to pupils on Monday 6th January 2020 for an INSET Day.



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Attendance Reminder

If your child is not attending school, it is extremely important that you contact school to advise us of the reason for the absence. In line with our Safeguarding Policy we have a duty of care to our children to ensure that they are safe. We become increasingly concerned when we do not receive communication from parents/carers. If we are unable to contact you about an absence, we will carry out a home visit. We ask that you phone school on 0113 2821344 or text on 07786 201172 (this is a free service) before 9am. If your child's attendance starts to cause concern, you will be contacted to attend a meeting to discuss this in school.

Upcoming events

10 th December	EYFS – Christmas Production (10.45am)
11 th December	EYFS – Christmas Production (2.00pm)
12 th December	EYFS – Christmas Craft afternoon
16 th December	KS1 – Christmas Performance (2.30pm)
17 th December	KS1 – Christmas Performance (2.30pm)
19 th December	Christmas Lunch (School Pupils/Staff Only)
20 th December	KS2 – Carol Concert (2.30pm)
21 st December-5th January	Christmas Break- School Closed
2020	
6 th January	School Closed to Pupils – Training Day
7 th January	School Opens to pupils
22 nd January	SEND Parents' Meetings with Mrs Hoskin- Details to follow
23 rd January	EYFS – Chinese New Year Celebration: 2pm to 3pm
6 th February	KS1 Learn with us (PM)- Letter to follow
13 th February	POPS Valentines Disco: TBC
17th-23 rd February	Spring Half Term- School Closed
24 th February	School Opens

