



# NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mrs Maria Whitehead  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021



Dear Parents,

Already this half term is flying by! The staff and children are working really hard and I have been privileged to spend some time observing in classrooms over the past 2 weeks and have been impressed by both the excellent teaching, and also by the children's engagement and desire to learn. I feel so proud of them all.

This week has been national Anti-bullying week and the children have enjoyed lots of afternoon lessons about our School Value of friendship. I must share with you what a little boy in Year 3 said to me. He said, "Mrs Whitehead, meanness is like a virus - it gets inside you and makes you ill. And kindness is the cure to make you better." As you can imagine, that touched me enormously! He went straight to the top of the ladder onto Excellent! There is more information for you later in this newsletter about what the children have been learning.

It has been lovely welcoming some of you into school for face-to-face parents' evenings this week. What a relief after so much time!

We have a packed run up to Christmas before us and I hope you can join us for some of the activities planned. Put them all in your diaries so that you don't double book. I personally cannot wait for the Nativity and Carol Service which we have really missed due to the pandemic. There will be 2 performances of the KS1 Nativity on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm and then Weds 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The KS2 Carol Service will be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of December at 6.30pm. All parents and family and friends are warmly invited. Tickets will be available soon. Save the dates!

Take care and thank you in advance for your support,

**Mrs M Whitehead**

## Cake Sale

Cake sale organised by the School Council to raise money to buy a 'buddy stop' for the playground starts on Monday (22<sup>nd</sup>). Please bake and donate. Cakes will be sold at 50p each at playtimes next week.



## Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening - our second parents' eve is Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 6-8pm. If you haven't yet booked an appointment, please email your child's teacher to book in.

## Non-uniform day

Non-uniform day on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> - children to dress in own clothes (remember a coat please) and donate chocolate or a 'Jumbly jar' for stalls at the Christmas Fayre. To make a Jumbly Jar just wash out an old jar and fill it with little treats such as marbles, lollies, sweets, power balls, marshmallows, lego to name a few. Anything goes!



## Saturday Special

Saturday Special - Sat 27<sup>th</sup> - book your child in for a day of fun at school while you get jobs done or just relax!



## Christmas Raffle

Big Christmas Raffle - please send in prize donations for this fundraiser. Raffle tickets have been sent home with your child today to sell to friends and family. Please return the stubs and money to school. We have sent 2 per child, so please return any unsold tickets back so that we can sell on. Thank you.

### Anti-bullying Week

As you know, it has been national Anti-bullying week this week. The theme is 'One Kind Word' and the children have participated in daily lessons focusing on kindness and friendship, resolving issues and building resilience. Of course, every child encounters friendship issues at some point. Falling out with peers and learning how to cope with this is a normal part of growing up. Playground disputes are normal as children develop the skills of negotiation, compromise and assertiveness. Learning what steps to take to resolve friendship issues and develop resilience is vital to developing healthy relationships with others. However, the Covid-19 pandemic with its lockdowns, school closures and periods of isolation has meant that school-aged children have missed 18 months worth of socialising with their peers. They have lost opportunities to learn the skills involved in maintaining healthy friendships and resolving friendship issues. And now we need to help them to catch up! So this week, staff have focused on 5 areas:

- How to be kind
- How to be a good friend
- What bullying is and how to stop it
- Solving a problem and being resilient
- Reflecting on the positive effects of kindness

Obviously, this teaching is not a 'one off', we teach it every day by role-modelling behaviour; teaching the children about our School Values; through the PSHE and Relationships Education curriculum; through the RE curriculum; through the Computing curriculum; in assemblies; and through visitors to our school like the Police or Coram Education's Lifebus.

In school, we reward good behaviour more than we have to deal with poor behaviour. But at times we do have to tackle unacceptable or inappropriate behaviour, and that's where our partnership with parents is very important. We have to collaborate to support our children to develop the vital social skills necessary to reduce incidents of bullying and peer-on-peer abuse.

We hope that you can spare a little time this weekend to talk to your child about what they have learned this week, and encourage them to spread happiness through 'One Kind Word'.

Our school Anti-bullying and Behaviour Policies are available on our website.

There is lots of information available for parents at the anti-bullying alliance and NSPCC websites.

### STEM

On Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, 4 children from Year 5 (Harvey, Yusuf, Aqsa and Daneen) attended a STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) challenge competition at Westholme Senior School. Over 15 schools competed against each other throughout the day in a carousel of activities which tested their subject knowledge, multi-tasking and team work skills. Our 4 amazing pupils collected 2 first prizes in the Physics and Engineering challenges and overall managed to achieve third place out of all the schools! Well done to the children who competed - looks like we have some future scientists/mathematicians in the making!



### Remembrance Assembly

We would like to thank Mrs Hannah, Year 6 and Mrs Goffee for a very poignant and wonderful Remembrance Assembly as always. We would also would like to thank Mr Vince Pridden from the Royal British Legion for attending.



### Stay and Play

The parents and grandparents enjoyed their time with us at the Stay and Play Coffee Morning today. There was much fun down in the Early Years and Triangle followed by breakfast and dance with Mrs Porter. Thank you to all parents who attended. See you next term for another.

