



NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mrs Maria Whitehead

Friday 11th February 2022



Dear Parents,

We are at the end of half term and everyone in school is ready for a rest and a recharge of their batteries. The children have been busy in the classroom and in their various after school clubs. The staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that Covid-19 has not disrupted the children's learning, despite our school suffering more positive Covid cases this half term than ever before. I am blessed to have such dedicated and committed staff.

This week in school the children have been learning about keeping safe when they are online, and they should have brought an acceptable use agreement home for you to read and then countersign - it includes the rules we ask the children to follow online to stay safe. It has also been National Children's Mental Health Week and we have been focussing in school on how to keep our minds healthy. We finished the week wearing a scarf to school as a symbol of wellbeing and positivity.

The police visited us on Thursday! Our local PCSOs came into school to talk to the children about staying safe outside of school and to beware of strangers, as well as online safety.

We continue to encourage the children to get active and the daily mile is definitely working - we can see the children running more easily for longer already. The Extra-Curricular Club list for next half term has been agreed and you should have received a copy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for freely giving up their own time to run these clubs for the children.

We will hold a Pupil Progress Evening next half-term on Tuesday 22 March, so please save the date. Your child's class teacher will email nearer the time to arrange a meeting with you and of course you will receive a report on your child's progress to date.

Pendleside Hospice came into our assembly today and thanked us for our fundraising before Christmas. We are going to hold a CAKE SALE the week after half term to raise funds for them again. Please can the children bake in the holidays and bring them to school from Monday 21st February. The Faith Ambassadors will sell them at morning playtime all week at 50p a cake and everything raised will go to the Hospice.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term break, and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 21st February.

Take care

Mrs Whitehead

Trip to the Leisure Box

Year 5 and 6 were treated to a trip to the Leisure Box in Brierfield on Monday evening. They enjoyed various sports including football, badminton, cricket and table tennis. Super fun was had by all and the children tried sports they may not have had the opportunity to do before. I would like to thank Miss Grillo, Mrs Barker and Mr Bailey for accompanying us on the trip and making it such a great experience for the children. We will arrange a similar trip for Year 3 and 4 next half term.



ESB and Poetry Vanguard

After half term, children from years 3 and 4 will be taking part in their Poetry Vanguard exam. Children have already started preparing two poems to read aloud. They will be expected to discuss their chosen poems and the reasons for their choice. Children from year 5 & 6 will be completing their English Speaking Board exam. They have already started preparing their presentations, poems and readings. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to develop their confidence in public speaking and it's extremely useful when they move on to secondary schools. The exam dates are 22nd March (ESB) and 23rd March (Poetry Vanguard). It is really important that children prepare thoroughly over half term as the exam day will be here before they know it!

Foodbank Collection

We keep a box in the Reception Entrance for the Foodbank in Burnley. They have requested donations of tin food, tin fruit, tin vegetables, etc. Thank you.

Uniform

Please can you help us maintain our high standards with regards to uniform. PE kit days are very convenient and save time in school not having to get changed etc for PE lessons, however the children are not always smart or clean. PE T-shirts should be white and clean each day. Socks and training shoes should be white. All children should come into school wearing PE shorts under their tracksuit trousers. Children must come in their full tracksuit and school coat on PE kit days.

Thank you for your cooperation with our uniform rules.

Ian Bland - Poet visit to school on 23rd February

We are very much looking forward to welcoming poet Ian Bland to school on Wednesday 23rd February to run poetry workshops for the children. What a fabulous way for us to prepare for World Book day on the 3rd March! It should also help the juniors prepare for their Poetry Vanguard and ESB examinations later in March. The children can pre-order books and Ian Bland will sign them at the end of the day



Arty-fact Theatre

You will remember that the visit by Arty-fact Theatre before Christmas was cancelled as the actors had Covid. They will visit school on 1st March to perform Calamity Climate Change, their latest production which will highlight how global weather is changing and damaging the environment - but of course this will be in a fun and engaging way:

'Jack the light housekeeper has been looking after his family's lighthouse for many years. He takes care of the beach and the animals that visit. He has received a letter to say someone from the council will be visiting to discuss a new venture, bringing tourists to the small cove, however, the investor is not what he appears to be...'

Scholastic Book Club

We have a **new book club running until 11th March**. Why not treat your child to some new books for Easter?

Go to:

<https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/st-josephs-parkhill/digital-book-club>

and browse the books on offer at discounted rates. For every book you buy, school earns rewards which we can then use to buy books for classrooms and the school library. So, everyone is a winner! All books ordered will be delivered to school before we close for the Easter holidays,



Dates for the diary

25th February - coffee, cake and chat followed by visit to your child's class.

11th March - Date night - childcare until 9pm so parents can have an evening out

18th March - Non - Uniform day, children to bring in a donation of an Easter Egg or Easter chocolate.

25th March - Quiz Night for the adults and Movie Night for the children.

SPORTS NEWS

Sportshall Athletics

Our Sportshall Athletics team performed amazingly against the other schools in the Burnley Athletics Competition, winning lots of their races and doing extremely well in their field events.

They all tried their best and enjoyed themselves managing to qualify for the small schools Athletics finals. Well done to you all!

