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Head Teacher: Mrs J Hampson



**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**  
**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

Dear Parents and Carers

**Sporting Achievements**

Another busy week has passed and we are nearly at half term. This week our Key Stage 1 Cross Country Runners excelled with 16 children in the team and all of them doing really well. They all supported each other and came in smiling. They have one more race at Idsall next Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October. We will need to gather in the hall at 2.50 pm and be prompt to get away in order to arrive at Idsall in time for the 4.00 pm start. Children will be already changed in their kit and ready for you to pick up from the hall at 3.00 pm.

We also had our two Year 5 and 6 football teams playing at BES on Tuesday afternoon. Both teams played really well. There are two more sessions of football on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Year 5 and 6 had a super walk around the local area recreating a pilgrimage journey as part of their RE learning. As always the children were very well-behaved.

**PTA events**

The Hallowe'en Disco went off really well. The children had fun and their costumes were amazing. Thank you to the PTA who ran another successful event for the children. The amount raised was over £350! The PTA will be selling Calendars and raffle tickets at the Christmas Events. If you can help out please let Michaela or Claire know.

**e-Safety Issues**

I have heard a lot of children saying they are playing on 'Fortnite' a free game on tablets and computers. The guidance from Child Net is that it is not suitable for children under 12. It is not only the violent content but the swearing and offensive language from strangers as children play against others.

We see a lot more play-fighting in the playground than we did a few years ago and some of this I feel is due to children seeing fighting on a regular basis as they play games such as Fortnite. We have had a real clamp down at playtimes and have banned any sort of rough play even if it is deemed 'play-fighting'. Playground buddies, teachers and lunch time supervisors are modelling other games for the children. I would ask that you give this some serious thought. I know peer pressure for children is immense and they will be telling you that everyone else plays it. This is not always the case. It is often only a few children who play on these type of games.



Last week I did an assembly about 'What Fighting is and why anyone would want to fight with friends'. We need to ensure your child doesn't have their childhood taken off them by a) spending too much time on tablets and devices instead of playing in the garden or woods and b) be exposed to things that could turn their minds to violence.

Also on the e-Safety front we have reminded Year 6 children about what they post on WhatsApp group chats or similar. It seems much easier for children to be unkind to each other in a post than they would be face to face. Remember it only takes one person from the group to send a photograph to another friend and the security has gone. Photographs and messages should be nothing more than children would want to put on a poster at the bottom of their drive because the reality is more people will probably see it via technology than pass the bottom of your drive.

PLEASE DO TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN REGULARLY ABOUT E-SAFETY.

### **Parents' Evenings**

We look forward to seeing you next week on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> or Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> for Parents' Evenings. You should hopefully now be aware that Parents' Evenings are on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October from 3.30 pm until 6.30 pm. Don't forget if you haven't booked an appointment there will be a few left so please phone the office.

### **School Choir for Lighting Up Ceremony and Carol Service at St Mary's Church**

If your child hasn't shown you the letter about the Lighting Up Ceremony and Carol Service please check their bag. Year 4 children and choir were all given one last Friday.

### **Pioneer Residential Trip - Information Evening for Year 5 parents**

Thank you to all Year 5 parents who attended the Pioneer Information Evening last Wednesday. Please ensure the medical form for your child is fully filled in and returned to school.

### **Bring and Buy**

School Council are collecting items for a Bring and Buy for Children in Need on Friday November 16<sup>th</sup>. Can you please sort out one new-looking item that your child doesn't need to send in that would be suitable for another child to buy for £2.00 or less. We have been talking about re-cycling a lot in school and thought this is perhaps more in keeping with Children in Need than eating cakes!

### **Electricity Cable Works - Castlefields Road / Highlands Road**

We have been advised by Western Power that they will be carrying out essential works for 7 weeks from 29<sup>th</sup> October. This will inevitably cause some disruption.

### **Christmas Play Dates for your diary**

Nursery Christmas Concert - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00 am - 11.15 am

Key Stage 1 Christmas Play - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30 am

Key Stage 1 Christmas Play - Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00 pm

Key Stage 2 Christmas Play (Y3,4 & 5) - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00 pm

Key Stage 2 Christmas Play (Y3,4 & 5) - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 pm

Letters about tickets will be sent out nearer the time.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Party Day for Nursery to Year 4. (Year 5 and 6 on a trip to Harry Potter World.)

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December - Aladdin the Pantomime in school

I can't believe I am writing about Christmas already but I know you like to put these dates in your diary as soon as possible.

Enjoy the last days of October before getting too engrossed in Christmas preparations!

Yours sincerely

**Mrs J Hampson**  
Headteacher