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Dear Parents,

Anti-Bullying Week – 13th November – 17th November

Anti-Bullying Week is going to be from **Monday 13th November – 17th November** and the message this year is 'Make a Noise about Bullying'. The children are invited to come into school wearing odd socks on **Monday 13th November** to take part in 'Odd Socks Day'. This is to help us celebrate our differences and to remember we are all unique, which is a great thing! No donations are needed.



To continue this theme, the children can take part in the 'Fun Odd Socks Competition' where they can send in a photo of their pet or a toy wearing odd socks. We would like to receive entries by **Wednesday 15th November** please and a KS1 and KS2 winner will be announced on the Friday.

Children in Need - Friday 17th November 2023

The children are invited to wear their own clothes on Friday 17th November in return for a donation to Children in Need. They may choose to wear something spotty or Pudsey-related.

During the day, every child will take part in a 'Pudsey Bearpees Challenge.' The child in each class who can do the most 'bearpees' in a minute will receive a prize.

Some of the children in Matt Thacker's Football Club may have a slight advantage when it comes to the challenge, as they had the opportunity to meet Pudsey and show him their 'bearpees' yesterday. Watch out for them on BBC Children in Need on 17th November!



Nurturing the spark of God within

"Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles" Isaiah 40:31



Christmas Card Project

Thank you to all of you who ordered Christmas Cards and other items in support of the school. Your purchases have been given to your children today and I do hope you are pleased with the finished products. Your wonderful support has raised an incredible £347.50 for school funds – thank you very much.



New Intake Tours

A reminder that we are offering tours of the school to prospective pupils and parents during the month of November. If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2024, please do contact the school office to book on a tour. We look forward to seeing you!

Parent Consultation Meetings

Your child will have come home with a paper copy of the parent consultation letter for their class. Please look carefully at the date of your child's consultations, as Years 1 and 5 have different dates to the other classes, due to working days and staff training. *Please do NOT email your replies to the office, but complete and return the paper copy to school as soon as possible. Thank you.*

PTFA News / Christmas Fayre – Saturday 25th November 11am – 2pm

Thank you so much for your wonderful bottle and chocolate donations this morning (and the Surprise bags on Monday!) – it really was a lovely surprise to see such a fantastic amount! We are very excited for the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 25th November and hope to see you all there. As always, we would be very grateful for any offers of help, both before and on the day. Events such as the Christmas Fayre involve a good deal of work, so life is always much easier if it can be shared!

We are very lucky to have Santa visiting our school on Saturday 25th November at our Christmas Fayre. This year children can join Santa and his elves to listen to Christmas stories told by Santa himself in his Grotto. Each story time lasts around 15 minutes and will be held in small groups so children can visit Santa with their friends and family. One parent or guardian per child can join in too! Tickets are £3 per child and includes a Christmas gift from Santa. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Parents must stay with pre-school children please. Please return the attached booking form and cash payment to the office by Friday 17 November.

I am delighted to announce the winners of the Christmas Fayre poster colouring competition – congratulations to Anna (Year 1) and Lucy (Year 5), whose beautifully coloured posters will shortly be placed on display in the local area. Thank you and well done to everyone who took part – the standard was very high and it was certainly not easy to pick our winners!

I am also very pleased to share with you that the total raised at our recent School Discos was an amazing £467! Thank you so much to the members of the PTFA who gave up their time to organise and run this event – as you know, they are all volunteers who donate precious time and energy for the benefit of our children and school community, all whilst leading incredibly busy lives and juggling their own families and other commitments. It is for this reason that we must now enforce published deadlines for events such as this; the committee simply do not have the capacity to work beyond the communicated dates. I am incredibly grateful to them for all they do for the school.

Remembrance Day

We will be remembering the service and sacrifice of servicemen and women at our Remembrance Service on Friday 10th November. We will also be selling poppies and other items in school next week, so please do send money into school with your children if you wish them to purchase something. Thank you.

Sir Ian Bauckham CBE

Some of you may have read in the news that our CEO, Sir Ian Bauckham CBE, has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Education as the interim Chief Regulator for Qualifications and Chief Executive of Ofqual from January 2024. This means that Sir Ian will be relinquishing his position as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tenax at the end of December 2023. The Trust Board of Tenax are currently finalising an interim CEO appointment pending the permanent recruitment, and we will share news of this with you as soon as we can. We all offer Sir Ian our heartfelt congratulations on his appointment and wish him the very best for his new role.

Vocabulary Ninja!

We are excited to be introducing a new whole-school system for teaching spelling called Vocabulary Ninja! Each week, a spelling pattern will be introduced to the children in class. A set of words will be sent home for the children to learn to spell, along with a fun activity to help them practise. Additional activities will be carried out in school during the week, so spellings will be reinforced at home and in school, before a spelling test takes place. The system includes regular revision of common words that the children are expected to be able to spell, so don't worry if some words seem a bit easy for your child. Also, there may seem to be a lot of words to learn, but we hope that by practising at home and at school, this won't be a problem. As with all new initiatives, we will try things out and adapt as necessary, but we hope to have a whole school of *Spelling Ninjas* very soon!



Year 6 Cake Sale - Wednesday 8th November

In order to raise money for their World War II Zoom lesson, Year 6 will be holding a cake sale next Wednesday. The children will sell cakes during breaktime, as well as after school. The cakes will be priced at 50p. Thank you for your support.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes

Tina Holditch
Headteacher