

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 13th November 2020

Remembrance

We are all so proud of Year 6 and their very poignant and hopeful digital Remembrance presentation which the whole school watched in bubbles on Wednesday. They reminded us of the reason we commemorate this day, the sacrifices that were made and also linked the recognition of this sacrifice and bravery to that of our key workers. The service gave us all the perfect opportunity to reflect on just how grateful we are. Thank you Year 6 and Mr McNicol for all the hard work that went into it. You can see the presentation on YouTube

<https://t.co/P1B58ZS89Z?amp=1> We are also grateful for the monetary contributions which we will obviously pass on to the Poppy Appeal.

Safeguarding of Children (for your general information)

If you have serious concerns about the safety or well-being of a child in our school, you are encouraged to report your concerns. The Designated Safeguarding Officer for the school is myself whilst Mrs. Bayliss is the Deputy Safeguarding Officer. If you feel unable to talk to us, the Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding is Mrs. Amy Hurst. Every member of staff has had relevant training and will deal with issues sensitively and appropriately. There is information on the board next to the office about Safeguarding contacts which also includes the contact number for Children's Services, although at present access to the office is restricted. This information/policy is also available on our website. If ever you were unsure, you can always phone the police too.

Complaints Procedures (for your general information)

A complaint is defined in our school policy as '*serious concern, grievance or dissatisfaction*'. If you do have a complaint, the first point of contact where possible should always be the class teacher. If you feel your complaint has not been dealt with then obviously you can speak to me or a governor. If you are still not satisfied, then a written complaint can be submitted to the governing body. This information/policy is also available on our website.

Christmas Cards / Foodbank Collection

We know how many children like to bring in Christmas cards and don't want to spoil their fun. I have therefore risk assessed this and have decided to allow it but please read the following carefully.

- Cards can only be given to children in their own contact bubble (class). Please ensure names are clear.
- Cards must only come into school during the penultimate week of term 7th to 11th December.
- Cards will be stored in a box in the class and will then be given out by staff from Tuesday 15th December to ensure an adequate period of quarantine.
- Please **do not** under any circumstances lick the envelopes. They can be tucked in, stuck with tape or maybe even a Christmas sticker. This is so important to avoid spreading the virus. ***Stick don't lick!***
- Please note, any cards that come in before or after the collection week, will be sent back home.
- Please do not give/accept cards on the playground.
- Please explain the above to your child.

As I explained in a previous newsletter, instead of staff presents this year, we will be collecting selection boxes/boxes of chocolates for the Vale Foodbank. We will collect these during the same week 7th to 11th December (Not before please).

Message from Mrs Lewis (Reception)

Key rings are coming home today with sounds and key words to support developing the children's reading skills. I am also sending home their individual seesaw logins as I explained in our parent phone calls. Please do engage with them and if there are any problems let me know ASAP as this will be our blended learning approach should we have to stay home (fingers crossed we won't!) Mrs Bounds our blended learning lead has created a video 'How to' guide for Seesaw. This and other useful information on blended learning can be found on the website <http://www.standrewsweb.com/sams-blended-learning.html>

The Giving Machine – Free money for school! (repeated message)

As we are unable to hold any fund raising events in school at the moment we would like to ask you to consider doing your online shopping via the above website. Whilst we would encourage everyone to shop locally where possible, if you are shopping on-line, by accessing online retailers via The Giving Machine it generates a commission which is paid directly to school. There are over 2000 shops that you can access including John Lewis, M & S, Next, The Entertainer and The Disney Store to name but a few. With over 230 pupils in school this could potentially raise a considerable amount for resources for the pupils. All you need to do is register on The Giving Machine website or following the links below. To find the school just enter our postcode which is CF64 4HB. Happy shopping!

https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/?gclid=Cj0KCCQjAhZT9BRDmARIsAN2E-JOXYmFCo2rEZm1fNY2ZbPq3Dj72iNM9vN9rStd-uGel7rArvxrI02caAj1GEALw_wcB

Christmas Plans (repeated message)

Children have been so resilient throughout the last 6 months and they have missed out on many of the usual activities that make childhood and school days special. Despite the pandemic, we are determined to celebrate the festive season and give the children a lovely experience to end the term. As a church school, we obviously feel strongly that the true meaning of Christmas is

explored well and this will continue through our RE and Values education. We have worked out how we can do activities whilst staying strictly in contact groups (bubbles). I will send out further details throughout the term but these are some of our plans:

- Cards and calendars will be made as usual.
- With special measures in place, we are allowed to sing within bubbles - hooray! We will be creating a recorded carol concert involving all bubbles which will be shared with everyone. If you have not given permission for your child to be on Twitter or the internet then they can take part but will be unable to be filmed. There are very few pupils for whom this is the case but please speak to the office if you would like to change this.
- All children from Reception to Year 6 will be offered Christmas dinner. This will be staggered over a week to enable every bubble to sit in the hall with the tree, turkey and all the trimmings!
- Every bubble (including Nursery) will have its own Christmas party.
- A streamed pantomime for all classes.
- Christmas film and popcorn afternoon.
- A Christmas gift even if Father Christmas has to deliver the presents due to social distancing.

Reminders/Dates

- Reception to Y3 have hot dinners next week 16th Nov (Please remember all children must have a water bottle every day – whether they have school dinners or not).
- Mon 16th Nov - Flu immunisations Rec to Y6.

Finally, as you know, we decided not to mark Children in Need this year. However, can I congratulate and thank Laurie in Year 4 who will be cycling 21km today to raise funds for this worthy charity. If you would like to sponsor her, please take a look on the following link

<https://donr.com/lauriebach>

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Headteacher



Our value this half term is Trust:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

(Proverbs 3: 5-6)