



TODDINGTON ST. GEORGE CHURCH of ENGLAND SCHOOL November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a busy time since the half term holiday so I thought it would be helpful to have an update.

Remembrance Service

Thank you for your support of our **Poppy Appeal** and the children were really respectful and calm as we held our **Remembrance service** this morning. They sang beautifully and ten children from Art Club had made ceramic poppies for our 'River of Peace' in the hall. Do look on the website to see the photos of today's Remembrance events.

Reverend Linda joined with the youngest children as they had their Playground circle around a large poppy and also prayed with her for peace for our school, country and around the world. Two children will represent the school at the Toddington Remembrance Service on the Village Green this Sunday.

Parents Consultations: We are nearly fully booked for Parents Consultations next week (Monday or Wednesday). Please contact the office if you still do not have an appointment time. Mrs. Mallett (our SENDCO) and Mrs Spencer (Head teacher) will be available in the hall for short conversations as needed. We can also book longer appointments with you for another date as necessary. We are grateful that the PTA will be providing drinks and biscuits again and selling uniform too.

School Admissions: Parkfields Middle School Open Evening was last night. Please remember the deadline for applying for a Reception place or transferring to Middle School (next September 2019) is **15th January 2019**. If your application is not received by then, it will not be processed until the late application round.

Teaching Active Life Long learning in Community

Some memorable learning this term has included:

Nursery: Nursery have made some super bats as they think about the darker evenings we are now having, and have also made lovely finger print Poppy cards for Remembrance. They have collected natural materials to show how Autumn brings changes in the garden.

Reception: The children have already learnt about and celebrated Firework night, Diwali and Remembrance alongside some lovely independent writing they have been trying out more regularly this half term.

Year 1: Year 1 have really worked very hard on their writing skills since half term and we had some great firework poems in the year group read out in Celebration assembly last week.

Year 2 had a visit from Grace Darling this week to bring History to life for them. Our visitor told the children the story of how Grace Darling became famous-ask them about her life if you don't know what she did!

Year 3 Stone Age Day: Wrens and Robins enjoyed their special Stone Age day this week and we were grateful to Mr. Tyson for so many useful artefacts to make the day an interesting live history day for the children. Volcanoes will soon be erupting in Year 3 too!

Year 4 Tag Rugby 'Winners': The children performed really well at the recent Tag Rugby festival. The squad were the most successful squad. There is no overall 'winner' now at the Festival but we were really proud of the teams that did so well. Thanks to Mrs Julians and Mrs Wood who took the teams along to compete. Excellent writing about Remembrance from Year 4 as well this half term.

PE Active

Swimming: Year 4 have now finished their lessons and Year 3 Swimming has started. Please can we encourage you to keep going to the Leisure Centre with your child to build on their swimming if they have just started to get going with their swimming now.

Drama & Dance: We are lucky to have a Drama and Dance coaches working with Year R and 1 children this term and hope the children really enjoy this opportunity.

Music. 'PBones' are going well and Wrens are learning to play them this term. Friday afternoons are filled with PBone noise now!

Attendance:

To half term

Year 3 currently have the highest percentage attendance in school. Attendance is very good.

Year 4 97.02
Year 3 97.53
Year 2 97.06
Year 1 97.40
Year R 95.26

Unauthorised absence includes application for holiday leave in term time that have been turned down by the school but Parents have still taken their children out of school. This often results in children being unsettled when they return to school and also unsettles their friendships.

The year group unauthorised holiday requests below.

Year 4 2 requests received.
Year 3 6
Year 2 2
Year 1 4
Year R 0

If attendance drops we will be writing to parents were there is no reasonable explanation for such a drop as it affects your child's learning opportunities. You are also liable to a fine if your child misses 10 sessions (5 days) in a 12 school week period because of

Unauthorised Absence (unauthorised absence is when the school has not received a reason for absence or has not approved a child's leave absence from school after a parent's request e.g. holiday).

Medical Appointments. If your child is going to miss time from school to attend a known medical appointment, the school should have a copy of the appointment letter or equivalent ahead of the day of absence.

School Council News:

Friday November 16th Children in Need Day.

School Council are organising our Children in Need Day and will be selling Children in Needs Pudsey pins for £1 each day next week.

- We will be having a **Disney 'Sing- along' in Year N and Year R.**
- **Year 1 and 2 can bring a cake** in they have made at home if they wish so Mr Harrowing and Mrs Wood can choose a 'TSG Bake Off' winner on Friday.
- **Year 3 and 4 can choose a 'Disney Song to Sing', or build a Lego 'House for Pudsey' to bring in.** (You practise at home and bring your CD/iPod/iPad in with your music on Thursday and then perform on Thursday. Some children then go through to the final on Friday. Models come in on Friday.
- **'TSG X Factor' singer and 'TSG Grand Design for Pudsey' winners** will be identified on Friday.
- We will support a good cause and wear spots too!
 - £1 to 'Wear Spots' for the day if you would like to.
 - 20p to enter the 'TSG Bake off /X factor or Grand designs' competition!
 - 20p to buy to a piece of Bake Off cake afterwards if you would like to.
 - £1 if you want a Pudsey bear pin.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal: School Council have also been very busy wrapping shoeboxes. Any items welcome as some boxes need to be filled. There will be a service at our St George's Church. Do come if you can and our choir will be singing.

The service is at 4pm on Sunday 18th November at St. George's, our Parish Church

The Scholastic half price Book Fair arrives on **Wednesday November 21st**. Great timing for Christmas gifts. Please pop along to support if you can. More details to follow.

Lost Property: We have a lot of lost property accumulating already; please label your child's school uniform and personal affects – we cannot return it to them if not identifiable. The box is at the front of the main school and you can come and look for Lost Property there yourself. School Council check it every Friday too.