



Toddington St George CE School Newsletter No. 8 – 29th January 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have been working hard since the Christmas holidays. This half term and the one between now and Easter are short so they need to be working hard to fit in as much learning in as possible.

I am aware some parents feel the children are getting quite a bit to do at home and we don't want to overload them. We really appreciate how you support your children's learning and regular, small bursts of work on number bonds, tables, spellings and reading will really pay dividends over the year and your child will grow in confidence as a result.

We have plenty across the curriculum to enjoy so please be assured we have a good balance to the curriculum for them.
Jane Spencer, Head teacher

Headteacher Awards: Awards for January were presented to:

- Swans: Lucy Stringer, Samantha Walker, Malachy Kearney
- Kingfishers: Finlay Lawrence, Riley Sharp, Ella Baines
- Puffins: Jessica Wyncoll, Faye MacLeod-Irvine, Christopher Gaffey
- Penguins: Ashton Moss, Cameron Choosey, Ben Williams
- Toucans: Ava Cunningham, Jack Townley, Owen Russell
- Hummingbirds: Zara Matthews, Ruby Pickard, Aaron Ward
- Robins: Jessica Lewis, James Ludgate, Kai Radford
- Wrens: Ayla Kiamil, Daisy Harding, Baei Moynihan
- Condors: Zak Zaidi, Corey Bailey-Plater, Grace Laird
- Kestrels: James Field, Joey Seamarks, Elizabeth Hardwicke

√√ Success for the school!

Governor Norman Costin was delighted to present Mrs Spencer with the FFT Aspire Governors Data dashboard for the school at a recent meeting. We had reported very positive results last year and the Dashboard reflects this success placing the school high against national results. Details will be added to the website shortly under the school performance tab. This is a tribute to the hard work of children, staff, governors and parents. Thanks to all!

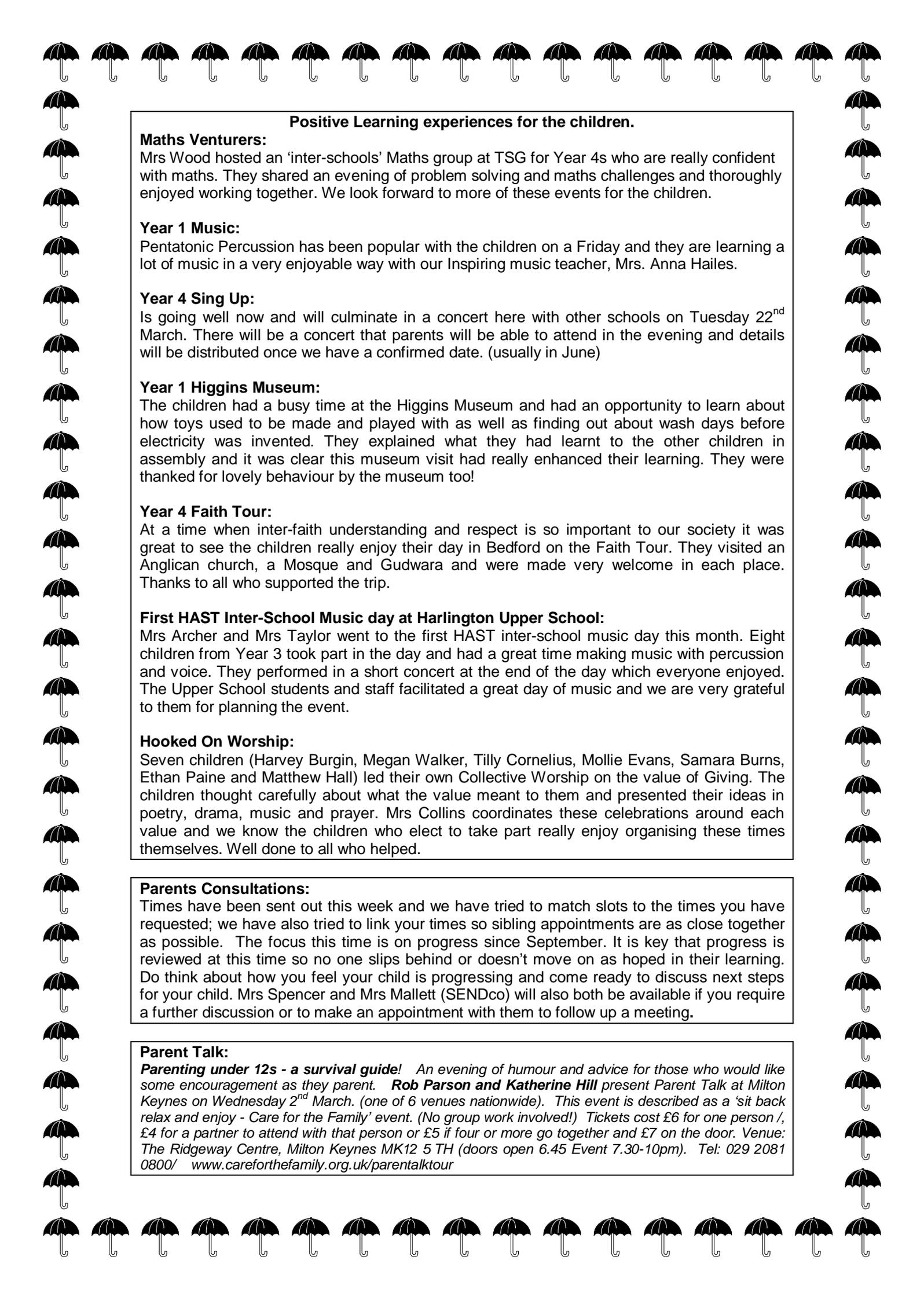
Healthy School Award

Following work with the children across the school, Mrs Stringer submitted the Healthy School report and we were very pleased to be re awarded the Healthy Schools Award for the 3rd time. We have been busy offering additional PE, have developed our PSHE offer to the children, have art therapy, social skills and play therapy groups alongside our Nurture group offer to enhance the wellbeing of children, and our school food offer meets the required Government standards. We have plans for this year to keep going and enhance our Healthy Schools offer - watch this space for more news!



Second Eco Green Flag

We were delighted to receive the following comments from the assessor following our recent green flag assessment: ***"Congratulations Toddington St. George on having your Eco-School Green Flag awarded for a second time. I enjoyed my visit and the Eco Team had lots to show me. Your school is teaching you to save resources like energy and water, to look after plants and animals, and to care for people affected by such events as earthquakes or the cutting down of forests. Such lessons help us to create a better world for everyone and I wish you well as you continue to develop this important work. Celebrate your success and thank Mrs. Clough and the Eco Team for all the work that has contributed to the school's success".***



Positive Learning experiences for the children.

Maths Venturers:

Mrs Wood hosted an 'inter-schools' Maths group at TSG for Year 4s who are really confident with maths. They shared an evening of problem solving and maths challenges and thoroughly enjoyed working together. We look forward to more of these events for the children.

Year 1 Music:

Pentatonic Percussion has been popular with the children on a Friday and they are learning a lot of music in a very enjoyable way with our Inspiring music teacher, Mrs. Anna Hailes.

Year 4 Sing Up:

Is going well now and will culminate in a concert here with other schools on Tuesday 22nd March. There will be a concert that parents will be able to attend in the evening and details will be distributed once we have a confirmed date. (usually in June)

Year 1 Higgins Museum:

The children had a busy time at the Higgins Museum and had an opportunity to learn about how toys used to be made and played with as well as finding out about wash days before electricity was invented. They explained what they had learnt to the other children in assembly and it was clear this museum visit had really enhanced their learning. They were thanked for lovely behaviour by the museum too!

Year 4 Faith Tour:

At a time when inter-faith understanding and respect is so important to our society it was great to see the children really enjoy their day in Bedford on the Faith Tour. They visited an Anglican church, a Mosque and Gudwara and were made very welcome in each place. Thanks to all who supported the trip.

First HAST Inter-School Music day at Harlington Upper School:

Mrs Archer and Mrs Taylor went to the first HAST inter-school music day this month. Eight children from Year 3 took part in the day and had a great time making music with percussion and voice. They performed in a short concert at the end of the day which everyone enjoyed. The Upper School students and staff facilitated a great day of music and we are very grateful to them for planning the event.

Hooked On Worship:

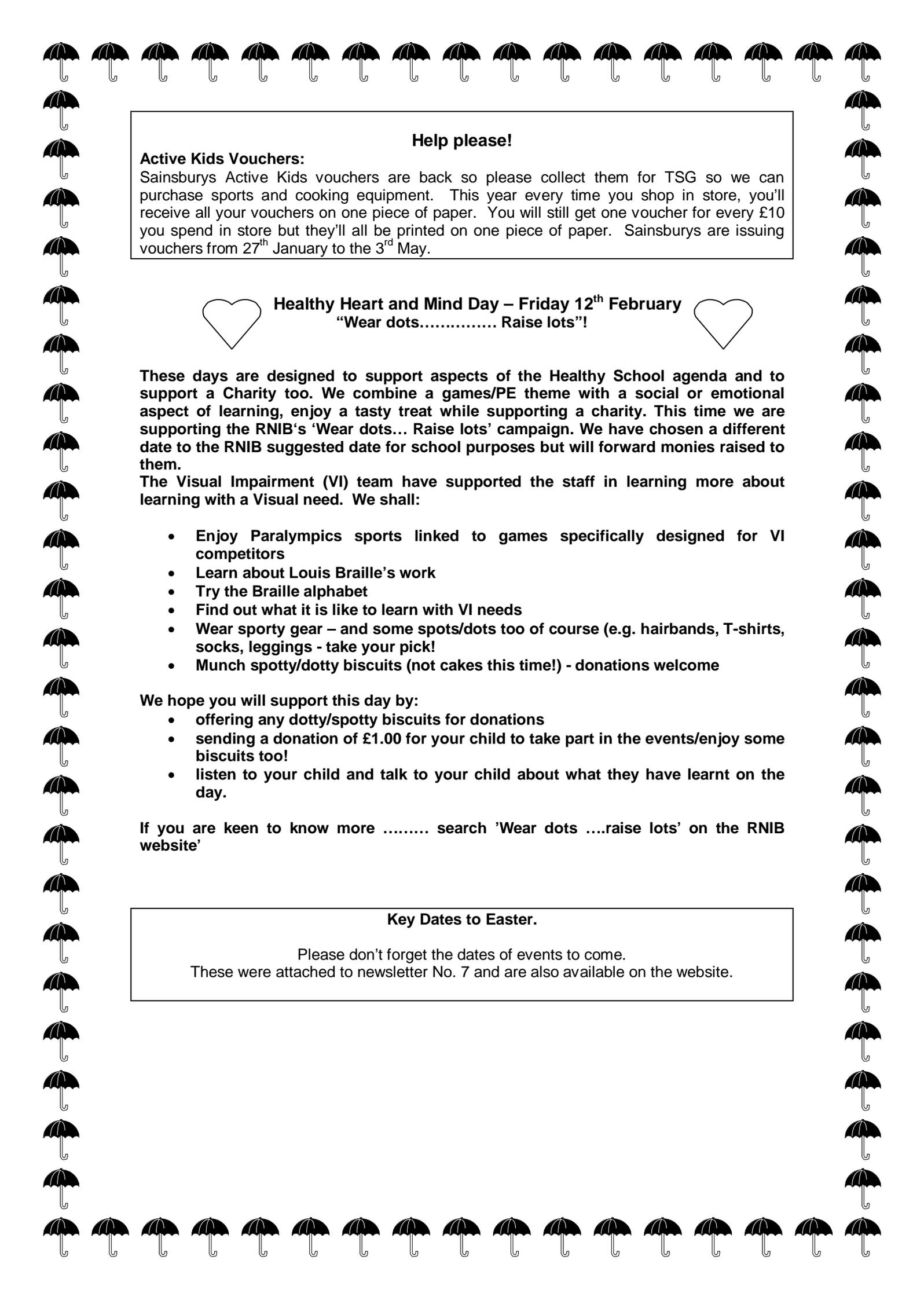
Seven children (Harvey Burgin, Megan Walker, Tilly Cornelius, Mollie Evans, Samara Burns, Ethan Paine and Matthew Hall) led their own Collective Worship on the value of Giving. The children thought carefully about what the value meant to them and presented their ideas in poetry, drama, music and prayer. Mrs Collins coordinates these celebrations around each value and we know the children who elect to take part really enjoy organising these times themselves. Well done to all who helped.

Parents Consultations:

Times have been sent out this week and we have tried to match slots to the times you have requested; we have also tried to link your times so sibling appointments are as close together as possible. The focus this time is on progress since September. It is key that progress is reviewed at this time so no one slips behind or doesn't move on as hoped in their learning. Do think about how you feel your child is progressing and come ready to discuss next steps for your child. Mrs Spencer and Mrs Mallett (SENDco) will also both be available if you require a further discussion or to make an appointment with them to follow up a meeting.

Parent Talk:

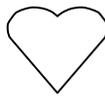
Parenting under 12s - a survival guide! *An evening of humour and advice for those who would like some encouragement as they parent. Rob Parson and Katherine Hill present Parent Talk at Milton Keynes on Wednesday 2nd March. (one of 6 venues nationwide). This event is described as a 'sit back relax and enjoy - Care for the Family' event. (No group work involved!) Tickets cost £6 for one person /, £4 for a partner to attend with that person or £5 if four or more go together and £7 on the door. Venue: The Ridgeway Centre, Milton Keynes MK12 5 TH (doors open 6.45 Event 7.30-10pm). Tel: 029 2081 0800/ www.careforthefamily.org.uk/parenttalktour*



Help please!

Active Kids Vouchers:

Sainsburys Active Kids vouchers are back so please collect them for TSG so we can purchase sports and cooking equipment. This year every time you shop in store, you'll receive all your vouchers on one piece of paper. You will still get one voucher for every £10 you spend in store but they'll all be printed on one piece of paper. Sainsburys are issuing vouchers from 27th January to the 3rd May.



Healthy Heart and Mind Day – Friday 12th February
“Wear dots..... Raise lots”!



These days are designed to support aspects of the Healthy School agenda and to support a Charity too. We combine a games/PE theme with a social or emotional aspect of learning, enjoy a tasty treat while supporting a charity. This time we are supporting the RNIB's 'Wear dots... Raise lots' campaign. We have chosen a different date to the RNIB suggested date for school purposes but will forward monies raised to them.

The Visual Impairment (VI) team have supported the staff in learning more about learning with a Visual need. We shall:

- Enjoy Paralympics sports linked to games specifically designed for VI competitors
- Learn about Louis Braille's work
- Try the Braille alphabet
- Find out what it is like to learn with VI needs
- Wear sporty gear – and some spots/dots too of course (e.g. hairbands, T-shirts, socks, leggings - take your pick!
- Munch spotty/dotty biscuits (not cakes this time!) - donations welcome

We hope you will support this day by:

- offering any dotty/spotty biscuits for donations
- sending a donation of £1.00 for your child to take part in the events/enjoy some biscuits too!
- listen to your child and talk to your child about what they have learnt on the day.

If you are keen to know more search 'Wear dotsraise lots' on the RNIB website'

Key Dates to Easter.

Please don't forget the dates of events to come.
These were attached to newsletter No. 7 and are also available on the website.