



Forefield Community Infant and Nursery School

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'Learning and Growing Together'



13th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Newsletter No. 5

I hope everyone enjoyed the half-term break as much as you possibly could given the circumstances and indeed the weather!



This next half-term leading up to Christmas, is usually one of the busiest times in school with all of the Christmas activities and celebrations. Although we won't be able to 'do Christmas' as we normally would, we still have plenty of plans and intend to make it a special time for the children with lots to look forward to.



For health and safety reasons, unfortunately, we won't be able to perform year group Christmas plays this year which I know parents really look forward to. We are, however, working on plans for a whole school, virtual Christmas performance and will share more details as soon as plans are finalised.



FOFIS are also planning some exciting activities for the children including a visit from Father Christmas 'live' from the North Pole. He always enjoys visiting Forefield so has made time in his very busy diary to join us this year even though he isn't allowed to travel at the moment!



Curriculum

New topics are well underway in each year group. Nursery's new topic is 'We Can Party!' and children thoroughly enjoyed 'Spooky Day' on their return after the holiday engaging in lots of very exciting creepy activities! Reception are learning all about 'Real-life Heroes' and will be coming to school on Friday next week dressed up as heroes in our community who help us - particularly poignant at this time. If there is an emergency in school next Friday, we will have a lot of willing helpers on hand dressed for the part! Y1 classes are continuing the topic 'We are Forefield' and Y2, meanwhile, are travelling through time this half-term. Their time travels will be taking them back to 1666 and The Great Fire of London as well as to the Crimean War to find out about Florence Nightingale - who she was, what she did that was so special and her legacy today.

Further details about this half-term's topic for each year group are available on the school's website, please take a look to find out more.



Home Learning

Year groups have all also posted home-learning activities on the website on a new 'Home-Learning' tab. Each year group has posted activities, across areas of the curriculum/EYFS Areas of Learning that children will be undertaking in school over the forthcoming week. If your child does need to learn at home for whatever reason, these can be accessed and work/photographs sent to your child's class teacher via the classelfie email address.

We will also provide further information with regard to Phonics and Maths activities for your child linked to their Phonic Phase and Big Maths CLIC/Beat That level should your child need to spend time learning from home at any point.



Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values

Parents' Consultation Meetings

Thank you to all those parents who were able to attend our virtual parents' meetings this week. It was a different way of operating for all of us but hopefully once initial teething problems had been sorted, you found the meetings a useful opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into his or her new class; the progress he or she is making and targets for the next half-term. If you weren't able to make an appointment please contact your child's class teacher to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Handwriting & Colouring Competition

This year we continue to focus on improving presentation, letter formation and handwriting, eventually introducing cursive handwriting in Y2. To this end, we held colouring and handwriting competitions at the end of last half-term. All the children had tried very hard to form their letters appropriately; remember which letters are tall letters and which letters have tails going below the line; write on the line; remember spaces between words; remember when to use a capital letter and when the letter should be a lower-case letter. There was so much to remember and they all did a great job which made judging very tricky! Congratulations to the two winners selected in each class who received a special prize today. We will be holding a Christmas themed competition towards the end of term so any practising of colouring or handwriting (ensuring correct letter formation, orientation and positioning on, above or below the line) at home will definitely help! Well done to everyone!

Charities

Thank you for your generous support for the charity appeals over the last couple of weeks. We know that not everyone will be able to support everything financially especially at a time when there are a lot of charities holding fundraising events but appreciate any donations that parents may be able to send in - but please don't feel obliged and do be reassured that children will not be excluded from participating in activities/events.

We virtually sold out of poppies this year which was great to see as I know the British Legion weren't able to undertake their usual community collections.

There were lots of spots and dots on every possible item of clothing from socks to scarves and from headbands to jumpers around school today along with lots of rainbow colours in the Nursery. An amazing £480.46 was raised for Children in Need - well done everyone!

NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* online programme

This week, the children participated in the NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* online programme. This consisted of an online assembly and supporting classroom-based activities. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a safeguarding programme available to all primary schools in the UK. It aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly, interactive way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline.

The NSPCC have developed an online version of their *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme to help overcome some of the challenges that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has presented in relation to having external speakers in school. In the online assembly, the *Speak out. Stay safe.* message was delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of their mascot Buddy as well as special guest appearances from Ant and Dec.

Having watched the programme, we hope the children feel empowered - knowing how they can speak out and stay safe. Do talk to the children about the assembly and see what they can tell you.

If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme you can find more information on the NSPCC website www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout.

Talking PANTS with your children

The NSPCC's work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes 'Talk PANTS', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse - without using scary words. The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone.

You can find out more and download the free resources at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants.

Childline Under 12's Website

Childline also have a website with age appropriate advice for primary school children on topics such as bullying. It also has games and other interactive tools. Your child can visit it at www.childline.org.uk/kids.

If you'd like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website www.nspcc.org.uk/parents.

Reception & Nursery Intake September 2021

All applications for Reception places in September 2021 must be submitted on line to www.sefton.gov.uk/admissions by 15th January 2021 which is the final closing date.

Nursery intake - For admission to the Nursery in September 2021, applications must be submitted by noon on Friday 5th February 2021 and parents will be notified of places by Friday 19th March 2021. If you require any additional information regarding admission to school, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Edwards or Mrs Gregory in the School Office.

Friends of Forefield Infant School

FOFIS will be organising **Santa Day/Christmas Party Day** on Friday 11th December. This is the day that Father Christmas has promised to put into his diary to say 'hello' to the children from the North Pole. As it is also Party Day, the children can come into school in a Christmas jumper. Owing to the current situation, we won't be asking for party food to come in from home, instead we have asked our catering team to put on a 'Christmas Party' at lunch time. Children may still bring in their own packed lunch as an alternative if they wish.

FOFIS Committee members have also been planning other Christmas activities and fundraisers which are possible given the current restrictions and health and safety measures that are in place. Separate letters will be sent home soon with more details. Money raised from these various activities will go towards FOFIS' current project: purchasing resources for our Forest School.

Dates for your diary

November

Fri 20th Nov Rec 'Dress up as a Real-life Hero Day'

December

Thurs 10th Dec Christmas Lunch

Fri 11th Dec Santa Day & Christmas Party day (wear a Christmas Jumper)

Wed 16th Dec Forefield Christmas Film Premiere

Thurs 17th Dec Term ends for Nursery children (normal time)

Fri 18th Dec 1.50pm End of Term

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY MONDAY 21st DECEMBER - FRIDAY 1st JANUARY 2021

January

Mon 4th Jan INSET Day - school closed for pupils

Tues 5th Jan Return to school

Our next newsletter will be available on Friday 27th November 2020.

Yours sincerely

E. Haney

Headteacher