

Coldfair Green Primary News

Issue: 9 November 6th 2015



Message from the Head

This week we have received thanks from the local food bank for the goods donated to them following our Harvest celebrations before half term. Sue Atkinson asked us to pass on her thanks on behalf of the food bank and said that the food would go to help local people.

We have been focussing on online safety this week in our assemblies and our discussions as we have launched our appeal for Digital Leaders. These are youngsters who will be trained as experts in online safety and will be ambassadors amongst their peers to support others in developing emotional resilience and strategies for keeping their online behaviour safe. We are also currently reviewing our Online Safety Policy which replaces the current e-safety policy. This will be available on the website by the end of November. More news on this will follow over the coming weeks. Our Digital Leaders will also be in touch via the newsletter to share their work in school and to invite you all in to be a part of our work to keep your children safe in this ever changing, fast paced, online world that we as adults struggle to keep up with. We have also been thinking about Light this week and the Diwali Festival of Light. Mrs Atherton led an energetic assembly on Monday which ended with us learning a celebration dance, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

News from the Governors

The Governors met this week to discuss the work of the school so far this term and hear news of its progress and plans for moving forward. Governors discussed the findings of the Parental Questionnaires, carried out by Mrs Atherton and her pupil helpers on the two parents' evenings before half term. Thirty five parents responded to the questionnaire. When asked if they were happy with the system of communication through the newsletter all said yes. 25/35 were happy with the use of the reading record diaries and some helpful comments were made for improving their use. Some parents responded that they would like a later parents' evening so working parents could attend. 23/35 parents found the school website difficult to navigate or didn't use it at all. A number of suggestions were made for improving road safety at the beginning and end of the school day and 13 parents indicated they would use a breakfast club if one were to be set up. All of the answers have given us food for thought as a staff. We are currently reviewing the structure and functionality of the website and will introduce a later parents' evening when we hold them in the Spring Term. We are also exploring the regulations and practicalities of starting up a breakfast club. News to follow as it develops. Mrs Chantel Pipe and Mrs Anita Page are your parent governors and represent the views of the parent body on the Governing Body of the school. Please do talk to myself or to either of them on the playground should you have missed the parental questionnaires and wish to share your views regarding the work of the school.

Stars of the Week

This week our value has been SELF - CONFIDENCE. Our pupils of the week for self-confidence are Edward in Oaks class, Toby in Hawthorn class, Edith in Rowan class, Amiee in Chestnut class and Ellie in Silver Birch class. Next week the value we will be considering in our assemblies and in lessons will be THINKING OF OTHERS, particularly as we celebrate Remembrance Day on November 11th.

The School Council

The School council have been re-elected this week. The new council members for each class are Alexander and Thomas in Oaks class, Daisy and Jack in Hawthorn class, Daniel and Chloe in Rowan class, Aimee and Elijah in Chestnut class and Dulcie and Edward in Silver Birch class. The democratic process was well and truly in evidence as children discussed their thinking and voted.

Attendance

"Ten ticks for a ticket"

Our whole school attendance figure so far is 97.3%. We are aiming high and want our whole school figure to be as close to 100% as possible. The class with the best attendance this week is Rowan with 100%. As part of our Parliament Week, which begins on Monday 16th November, children will be looking more closely at the pros and cons of term time holidays and will be researching and debating both sides of the argument when attempting to answer the question, "Should children be allowed holidays during term time?" They will be carefully considering the views of all involved and when the 'House' convenes on Wednesday 18th November the children will present their findings and all will vote.

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Mr Pritchard to the staff as our new Year 6 teacher and a member of the school's leadership team, working closely with Mrs Fewkes, Mrs Hall and Mrs Mawson. Mr Pritchard comes to us from the Behaviour Support Service and was previously Deputy Head at Halesworth Middle School.

Children in Need -Be a Hero

This year the theme for Children in Need is 'Be a Hero.' We will be dressing as heroes on Friday 13th November and donations of £1 will be sent on to Children in Need.

PTA

We are still looking for more teams of people to take part in the Quiz on Friday 20th November. Teams of 6, £5 per head, 7.30pm start in the Village Hall. The teachers are being challenged (as I believe they won the wooden spoon one year) by the Governors and I am sure there are a number of you who can more than give us a run for our money. It promises to be a fun night with lots of good humour. Speak to Kate Goddard or any member of the PTA on the playground or contact the school office for further information. We hope to see you there.

Samaritan's Purse

We are now beginning to fill our Christmas Shoe Boxes. Special flat pack boxes are available at a cost of 40p and can be collected from the school office. If you would still like one we have a few extra. The boxes must be returned to the school office by Friday 13th November so we can arrange for them to be sent on to others less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you to those who have already bought in their boxes.

Junior Road Safety Officers

Our new Junior Road Safety Officers Keira, Tommy and Holly have been judging new road safety poster competition this week. Children designed posters about being safe and being seen and they were judged by a panel of the school council and staff. The winning entries will be announced in assembly on Monday and will be made up into road safety signs to be displayed outside of the school grounds.

Reminders

We operate a healthy schools policy and request that sweets are not brought in to school to be consumed at playtimes. We would also like to remind parents we are a NUT FREE school.

Wellies are also needed if children wish to play on the field at this time of year. Your child will need a pair of school shoes as well as their wellies and they will need black shoes to wear inside the building. We are trying to minimise the impact on the carpets as much as possible. We have

a lot of unnamed lost property, which can be retrieved from the property bin outside the front of school. Please help us to return missing items to you more quickly by ensuring they are named. Thank you for helping us with all of these issues.

Remembrance Day

We will be holding a minute's silence on November 11th in remembrance of all those who fought and lost, who are fighting now and those living with the consequences of the fight to ensure we retain our freedom of thought, action, speech and religious belief. We are remembering those people who have ensured we are able to practice the British Values of Democracy, respect for the rule of law, individual liberty, respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and of no faith. Poppies will be sold on the playground at the beginning and end of the school day from Friday November 6th. Donations will go to The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

In the Community

Mason received a certificate for swimming 5 metres. Well done Mason! The school received a certificate for its participation in the Cancer Research Animal Magic Art Exhibition at the Peter Pears Gallery, Aldeburgh. This event raised £11,750 in total.

Community Christmas Fayre

The Cancer Research Christmas Fayre takes place on Saturday 28.11.15 at Knodishall Village Hall, between 11am and 3pm. All are welcome and Father Christmas will definitely be in attendance. Do pop along if you get a chance.

Dates for your Diary

- 12.11.15 School Photographs
- 12.11.15 Werther - English National Touring Opera at Snape Maltings (including some of our youngsters)
- 13.11.15 Children In Need - Be a Hero
- Week beginning 16th November Anti Bullying Week / Parliament Week
- 18.11.15 The Big Vote - Should Children be allowed to take holidays during term time?
- 20.11.15 Quiz Night Knodishall Village Hall 7.30pm
- Week beginning 23.11.15 Road Safety Week
- 23.11.15 Key Stage One Problem Solving Maths Café
- 26.11.15 5pm Bedtime Stories
- 27.11.15 Key Stage Two Calculation Maths Café
- 02.12.15 Violin Recital to parents of Violinists 3.15pm
- 04.12.15 Non Uniform Day - Bring an item for the Christmas Hampers
- 07.12.15 School Council to judge the Christmas Baubles Competition
- 09.12.15 Christmas Fayre 2-5pm Classes running stalls
- 10.12.15 Choir Singing at local Nursing Homes
- 11.12.15 Choir Singing outside Solar Supermarket in Leiston
- 11.12.15 Years 3,4,5 to Ipswich Museum Egyptian Collection
- 11.12.15 Years 1 and 2 Flu immunisation
- 15.12.15 Little Blue Star Nativity Play Reception and KS1 Children 2pm and 6pm
- 16.12.15 Christmas Dinner
- 17.12.15 The Meaning of Christmas - Christmas Service
- 17.12.15 Christmas Disco Reception and KS1 4-5.30pm and KS2 6-7.30pm
- 18.12.15 End of Term (Last day)

Have a great weekend. Mrs Amanda Fewkes

This is going to be a very busy, fun packed half term, with some exciting learning opportunities planned.

Mrs Amanda Fewkes