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Our **Value of the Month** for December is **KINDNESS**



Newsletter – December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,



Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA)

We are proud to announce that we are working towards the Unicef Rights Respecting School Award. We held this award previously and we are keen to continue to promote children's rights and responsibilities. Mrs Martindale introduced the RRSA award to the whole school this week in assembly and we are in the process of organising the 'Rights Champions'. The Champions will be our steering group of pupils from across the school who, alongside our link school governors, will embed the rights respecting ethos. Our official launch day is Tuesday 6th December – watch out for lots more information over the coming weeks.

Christmas Jumpers on Christmas Party Day – Friday 16th December



To acknowledge and reward our hard working pupils, we are having our party day on the last day of term. Children can wear non-uniform, have a party lunch and enjoy party games in the afternoon. We are linking this with SAVE THE CHILDREN Christmas Jumper Day to try and raise funds for those in need. We thought it would be good if children could wear their festive jumpers that day if they have one (please note any non-uniform is allowed instead). Donations towards SAVE THE CHILDREN would be very welcome on that day and proceeds will be sent to help those who need it most.

Electric Car Competition Winners



We are proud to announce that Mr Seaton's class have recently won a competition judged by a panel of professionals at Newcastle University Advanced Propulsion Centre. The question they had to answer was 'How will we travel in the year 2050?' Their submission was fantastic and the panel awarded us a Green Power Goblin kit car to build and drive! The build introduces children to basic mechanics as the kit contains instructions and needs to be constructed and tested. Well done to our fantastic mechanics – we can't wait to see the completed car.

Christmas Fair – Tuesday 6th December from 3pm – 5pm



Just a reminder that our Christmas Fair is on Tuesday 6th December starting at 3pm. We are very grateful for all the donations we have received for this so far. We have a range of stalls at the event as well as refreshments. Children can also come along with parents and meet Santa Claus. We look forward to seeing you there.

Pantomime Performance in School – Morning of Friday 16th December



On the last day of term children can enjoy a pantomime in school as part of their party day activities. We hope every child will join in with the singing and fun while they watch Dick Whittington performed by Chaplins Pantomime Company.

Icy Conditions



Weather forecasts are predicting a cold winter this year! On icy days we have procedures in place to get children safely in and out of school. This involves using the side gate access into school and bringing children around the side of the building on the gritted path. Your support with this recently has been greatly appreciated.

Attendance Awards



Each term we look at attendance as part of ongoing monitoring. This is completed with our Education Welfare Officer, Terry Robson. This term she noted there are currently a number of pupils on track to have 100% by the end of term (Friday 16th December). On the last day of term all pupils with 100% will receive their wrist band to recognise this great achievement. Attendance at school is vital to allow children to achieve their full potential and we continue to monitor the attendance of pupil's that fall below government guidelines. We have noticed an increase in families taking holidays during term time and would kindly remind parents to avoid this to ensure children are in school each day.

Christingle Service – Wednesday 14th December 2016 at 2pm



Just a reminder that all families are welcome to join us at the Christingle Service starting at 2pm on Wednesday 14th December. We will get to meet our new vicar, the Reverend Dunn, who has taken over the parish from Reverend Wilkinson who moved to St Gabrielle's Church in Sunderland. We look forward to seeing you there if you are able to come along. Please meet us at St Barnabas as staff will bring the children to the service.

Support for Families – Benevolent Fund

Durham County offer a fund to support families who may be having financial hardship. The aim of this is to provide relief at the most difficult times, offering small grants to purchase winter shoes and coats. As a school we contribute to this to ensure that funds are available for pupils in our local area. If you feel that this may be something you would like more information on please contact our school office

Pudsey Day and Cake Sale



We raised a grand total of £342.15 for Children in Need recently. The children looked fantastic in their clothes and really got involved in the activities. The cake sale was a particular highlight and showcased the baking talents of our pupils. The Bournmoor Bake Off Sale was very well attended and lots of parents and family members left with many tasty treats to eat at home. Well done to all our Bake Off winners who were announced in assembly the next day. The standard was so high and the entries showed great skills.

Year 6 Tudor Activities



Our Year 6 pupils went back in time recently when they worked with Sarah McAllister, a cookery teacher. Sarah brought in a range of ingredients that would have been available in Tudor times and the children worked together to make food that would have been eaten back then. We know that children like to have history brought to life so they can try and experience what it was like then. Miss Knox reports that they certainly had a flavour of Tudor life when they made pottage (a vegetable and oat stew which was popular at the time), spiced apple juice and sweet rice pudding.

Carol Concert at St Barnabas Church – Sunday 18th December at 6pm



We will shortly be asking for children who are able to come along and join in with the carol concert at our local church. The choir will begin rehearsals soon in school ready to join in with this well attended community event. All families are welcome to come along.

JUST A REMINDER THAT SCHOOL CLOSSES FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2016 AND RE-OPENS ON TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2017.

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY HOLIDAY

Yours sincerely, Mrs L A Snowdon (Headteacher)