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**Our Value of the Month** for November is **Friendship** and for December is **Kindness**

### November/December 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the second half of Autumn term and this one is always very busy as we lead up to Christmas. We have lots planned and this newsletter provides dates and times for events but as always, please contact the office if you would like any further information. Last half term, the pupils worked so hard and showed their excellent manners so it is not surprising that we had two winning teams (Red and Yellow) who earned a non-uniform day. Also, the children told us how much they enjoyed their Halloween disco treat and it was lovely to see them enjoying their well-deserved reward.

#### Supporting Local Projects

We aim to support our local community and one of the ways we do this is by gathering donations for the Food Bank so we would like to thank you for your recent generous donations. The County Durham Foodbank at Drum Industrial Estate in Chester-le-Street weighed the food taken along and the donation was equivalent to 57 meals for families. Mr Greenwell took the food along on our behalf and said that donations are always welcome so they were very pleased to have our support. If you have any spare dried goods (i.e. pasta or rice) or any tins of food then we would be pleased to accept them and pass them to this local service. Food can be brought in at any time leading up to Christmas.

#### Remembrance Day

Many thanks for the kind donations for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal this year. Our School Councillors took the poppies round each day to sell. In addition, two pupils from Mr Seaton's class went to the Cenotaph in Fencehouses as representatives from our school along with Mrs Chapplow. Thank you to our Year 6 pupils and Mrs Chapplow for going along and placing a wreath on our behalf during the Remembrance Service.

#### Autumn term parents' evenings Monday 27<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November

This term you will be invited into school to speak to the class teacher and look at your child's work. This gives you an opportunity to look at your child's progress and discuss their learning with the teacher. A text message will be sent out so you can click and book a slot. Please note that nursery parents are contacted by our school office to book an appointment so they will not receive the text. Our teachers are available at the start and end of each day to meet and greet parents but this meeting provides an opportunity to focus on your child's strengths in their learning and next steps to help them.

#### Anti-Bullying Week 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November

The theme for this year is 'Make a Noise About Bullying' where the Anti-Bullying alliance hope to promote speaking up, getting support and raising awareness. We will be supporting the campaign this week beginning Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November with a range of activities focusing on the theme of bullying. Children can buy an Anti-Bullying Alliance wrist band for £1 with all money going to the NSPCC to help fund their essential work and phone lines for children.

#### Children in Need Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November

Our School Councillors met with Miss Hartley and discussed Children in Need. We will be supporting this important cause and they decided that children can wear non-uniform or their Pudsey clothes when they come in on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November. Donations are warmly welcomed. Please note we are holding this on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> as we are closed to pupils on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November for staff training.

#### Policies and Information

We keep a range of policies and helpful information on our school website. We hope you find this useful and please ask the office if you require a paper copy. Please click this link to access the 'Policies' part of our website:

<https://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/key-information/school-policies/>

#### Governor Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for 2 Parent Governors and would be keen to hear from you if you would like to find out more. You can speak to Mrs Snowdon about this and also look at the <https://www.nga.org/> website which sets out the role, expectations and provides details about this strategic position within school.

## Attendance

Each term we look at attendance as part of our ongoing monitoring and you will soon receive a letter with your child's attendance certificate. There are a number of pupils currently on track to achieve 100% by the end of term which is on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. On the last day of term, all pupils with 100% will receive a wrist band in recognition of this great achievement. We wanted to say thank you to parents for telephoning the office when their child is off school before 9am.

Below is our current % attendance for each year group and also the current national averages:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
School	89.7%	94.2%	91.4%	95.9%	95.3%	94.3%	93.8%
National average (to date)	94.6%	95%	95.3%	95.6%	95.4%	95.2%	94.9%

### **Christmas Fair Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November from 3.30pm 5.00pm**

Just a reminder our Christmas Fair is on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November starting at 3.30pm. We are very grateful for all the donations we have received for this so far for our raffle/tombola/toy stall, etc. We have a range of stalls at the event as well as refreshments and children can also come along with parents and meet Santa Claus. We look forward to seeing you.

### **Christmas Post Box from 1<sup>st</sup> December**

Each year children can bring their Christmas cards into school for their friends and put them in our post box. This year our School Council will be sorting them out and delivering them to each class. Your child can post their Christmas cards from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Please ensure that each envelope has the pupil's name on and which class they are in so our delivery team can get them to the children.

### **Christmas Jumper Day 8<sup>th</sup> December**

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December children can join in with Christmas Jumper Day and raise funds for St Cuthbert's Hospice. On that day children can wear their festive jumpers if they have one and please note non-uniform is also allowed. Donations towards this would be very welcome on that day and we will pass all proceeds on to the hospice.

### **Christmas Performances for Infants and Juniors**

Our Christmas performances are on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. You will shortly receive your tickets for this when your child brings them home. A text will be sent on the day they come home so you know to expect them. The infants will be performing 'A Miracle in Town' and the junior show is called 'No one Wraps Like an Elf'. Please read the letter with the tickets which explains how we have altered the way we have organised tickets this year. We have listened to feedback in the past about what parents and grandparents like about our shows and we hope the changes allow families to choose who comes on which day to enjoy the performance. Also the infant show starts at 9.30am followed by the junior one at 10.30am (on both days) so if you have children in both key stages, you can see them on the same morning.

### **Christmas Card Designs**

Children have been invited to make a Christmas card by two groups in our local community. The pupils have been invited by our local church St Barnabas and also the Chester-le-Street Business Association to design their own Christmas cards which will be put on display. The children's designs will be displayed by Rev Walton in St Barnabas and we may also be lucky enough to have one chosen as their winning Christmas card design. Chester-le Street Business Association will display our designs in Tesco so the Christmas shoppers can see them.

### **Earrings in school**

Please support us to be an earring-free school by removing your child's earrings before they come to school each day. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

### **Key Dates**

Our list of school holidays and PD days are available on our school website. You can click on the link below to find them. This will ensure that holidays are taken out of term time to allow your child to attend school. You can also find full details of holiday dates on the Durham County website. School holiday dates and PD days for 2023-24:

<https://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/50/2023/05/School-holidays-and-PD-days-2023-2024-1.pdf>

**Please note our next teacher training days are on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November and school is closed to pupils on these days.**

**We close on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 for the Christmas Holidays and re-open to pupils on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024.**

Yours sincerely, *L A Snowdon* Mrs Laura Snowdon (Headteacher)