

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to everyone. We welcome you all back to the start of 2020 and are looking forward to working with you and your children. Children have settled well into their routines and are ready to start the new term. Please see below for our latest news

Safeguarding

Parking outside school continues to be a hazard! Please can you make sure that you do not park on the zig-zags or yellow lines. The entrance to the school car park also needs to be left clear at all times – not only to let staff and visitors in and out but, more importantly, to allow access for emergency vehicles should the need arise! Local residents have asked that you do not block their driveways or use them as turning points please, particularly at the lane end and the vicarage – this is just common courtesy! Unfortunately I have no jurisdiction or ‘super powers’ to alleviate the problem other than continually ringing the police and County Council. However, this and taking regular phone calls from concerned residents, takes up an inordinate amount of my time which, I’m sure you’ll agree, would be much better spent focusing on the teaching and learning of our children.

New fencing is being put up around the playground and car park to further ensure the safety of our children and act as a security measure.

Apple watches have been a Christmas present for some of our children. Please note that for safeguarding reasons they are not to be worn to school. They are the same as a mobile phone and, should your child wear one to school, they will be asked to hand it in at the office in exactly the same way we do with mobile phones.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation with all of the above in trying to make our school environment as safe as we possibly can for all of our children.

Year 3

Mrs Nixon has returned to school and will be teaching in Year 3 on a part time basis. She will work with Mrs Meadows and the job share will operate in the same way. During her phased return, Mrs Nixon will be working with Mrs Meadows on a Thursday and Miss Richardson on a Friday to ensure a smooth transition for the children. Mrs Nixon has thoroughly enjoyed her first week back and is looking forward to being ‘back in full swing’ by February half term.

‘Open Door’ Policy

We have always operated an ‘open door’ policy and pride ourselves on our school ‘family’ ethos. However we are finding that sometimes when we see parents straight away, especially at the start of the day, it means that teachers are interrupted from setting their classrooms up ready for the children to come and begin teaching and learning.

By all means continue to catch staff in playground or pop into office to pass straightforward messages on however, if it’s something that requires a discussion/chat, then please ring or call into the office to make an appointment to see the class teacher. If I am available and can see you at that point in time then I will. Thank you.

School House

You will be aware that there is work going on at the school house. The house has stood empty for a number of years now and the Local Authority has decided to incorporate it into the school.

Unfortunately it could not be made fit for purpose to be a nursery so instead we will have some new group rooms, a kitchen and small outside area. This will be of great benefit to us as a school. We are envisaging that one of the rooms will become a school library and we will hopefully be doing some fund-raising for new books.

I know that there have been some issues with work vehicles outside the school house which impacts on parking space. We have allocated some parking in school but there are times when contractors need to drop tools etc off at the school house as they are too heavy /large to be carried from the car park. We are in regular discussions with the foreman and officers at the Local Authority and hopefully these issues have now been resolved.

Website

Our website is a great place to find out what’s happening in school! Miss Potts regularly up-dates the class pages. Please take a look. There is also a host of other useful items on there too!

Mini Buddies

A group of Year 2 children were keen to be Mini Buddies and took part in training on 8th January with Tracey Alderson. Two of our Year 6 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors helped out during the day and were excellent in the way that they supported our younger children. Well done to Aimee T and Anna T for being fabulous role models and mentors!

Electric Engines

On Wednesday 15th January, Year 6 visited the Locomotion for a day of Science and Design Technology led by a team from Hitachi. The session reinforced their learning on last terms Learning Challenge, 'Could you be the next Nintendo apprentice?'. They began the day creating 'Human Circuits' and using symbols to draw diagrams. They then took a tour around the museum and carried out drama activities which helped them to understand why we moved from steam to electric engines. After this, they became design engineers and, as part of a team, designed and built their own electric engine. They all had a fantastic day; it was a perfect reflection of their learning.



Congratulations



Star of the Week Award

10th January 2020

Class Nominations

Reception	Archie T
Year 1	Archie D
Year 2	Emily B
Year 3	Heidi D
Year 4	Elise G
Year 5	Daniel B
Year 6	Finlay C

Superstar of the Week

* Archie T *

What's been happening. . .

Today Peter Barron, who used to be editor for The Northern Echo, and is now a children's author and Jonathan Raisebroigh, a young autistic man who has an amazing talent, visited school.



They delivered a whole school assembly where they talked about one of Peter's storybooks, how they met and how Jonathan illustrated the story. The book is called 'Snowdrop The Spikeshuffler' and has lots of morals behind it but, most importantly, it celebrates everyone's uniqueness!

Peter and Jonathon then worked with year 6 and gathered ideas for writing stories. Their input inspired the children to think of some really creative ideas that related to friendship and individuality and very topical issues in currently in the news. Brodie and Ethan O'N were the winners of a signed copy of the book for having the most creative idea!

As a way of saying 'Thank You' to Peter and Jonathon for coming into school, we are holding a special non-uniform day next Friday 24th January. We would like the children to come dressed in their own clothing that represents their own style and individuality! Creative hairstyles are also allowed! Children will make 'Snowdrop' cakes in class. There will be a contribution of £1 for this which will go to The National Autistic Society as our way of saying 'Thank You' to Peter and Jonathon for their time!

Please ask your children about our special visitors today. I'm sure they'll have lots to tell you. There is also an opportunity to purchase the book 'Snowdrop The Spikeshuffler' at a special price of £6.00. Children have an order form for you to complete by next Friday.

Dodgeball League

The Dodgeball League started this week. Our Year 6 team were keen to show off their skills, which they had been practising in school. They are off to a great start, playing two games and winning one. Mr Brentnall said how proud he was, as they showed great sportsmanship and determination.

After School Clubs

Some of our After School Clubs have very small numbers attending, therefore these will only run over this first half term unless numbers increase. Parents will be informed if these are to be cancelled.