Andover Way Middlesbrough TS8 9HL

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# **AUTUMN 2 2019 NEWSLETTER**

#### **Dear Parents...**

I hope you enjoyed a lovely half term break despite it being rather wet! Please keep this letter in a safe place as there are several key dates for Christmas in the diary section. Reminders will also go out on the school app and Marvellous Me.

#### **Harvest Thanks**

Well done to all our fabulous Reception children and staff for another wonderful Harvest Festival just before we broke up. As ever, your generosity was amazing and we were able to donate a huge amount of food to Middlesbrough Foodbank; thank you!

### Reading, Reading, Reading

As you know, one of our school priorities this year is reading! We set the classes a challenge of having the most children read 25 times in a half term and Y5C were the winners with 60%, closely followed by Y5B and Y6 with 57%. The competition has started again and is part of this half term's homework grid – get reading everybody!

### **Online Safety**

I have already sent a flyer this week inviting parents to a workshop in school with Dave Dixon, an IT Education Consultant who works with us quite regularly in school. There is no escaping the fact that our children use technology daily and that they are often quicker and better than us adults with new devices — and from a very young age! There is much to celebrate about this, but also a lot to be very wary of, in terms of what the children can access, who can access our children and also unacceptable behaviour that goes on online, particularly over social media. It is essential that we teach the children about

responsible and safe use of the internet but we also want to help parents understand more about what your children are using and what safety measures you can take to protect them online. Dave has run this session a couple of times in school and they have always been well attended and well received. He is down to earth, a parent himself and has a huge knowledge about this topic. Please make every effort to come as this is such an important topic for all parents.

Following the workshop, Dave will spend the rest of the day working with Y6 to particularly build their skills and knowledge about online safety.

### **Staffing**

As some of you will be aware, Mrs Lockey, is beginning a time of Adoptive Leave having successfully been matched with a baby boy as the newest addition to her family. We are delighted for Mrs Lockey and I'm sure you will join me in wishing her and the family well during this exciting time. In her absence, Mr Lines has taken up the teaching in Y3/4 and is already getting to know the children and us well.

Unfortunately, Miss Tumelty is still absent from school with ill health. In her absence, Mrs Scaife and Mrs Andrews are teaching in Y3.

## **Fundraising**

Our autumn disco raised a fantastic £177 towards the costs of trips out and visitors in. Thank you for helping us keep these activities going by being able to subsidise the costs.

This year our Christmas Fair is on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** and there will be the usual stalls, games and refreshments plus, of course, an opportunity to meet Santa! Some of the money raised from this is used towards the costs of the theatre

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company who will be performing Jack and the Beanstalk to the whole school on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December and towards Early Years and KS1 parties.

We need tombola prizes, bottles, books, games, and unwanted toys to use and sell. Unfortunately we are not able to take any electrical goods.

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November it is **CHILDREN IN NEED** day and we will be fundraising for this worthwhile charity with a non-uniform day. Children can wear something spotty or colourful and we are asking for a donation of £1 to donate to the charity.

### **KS2 Panto Trip**

One of the things we will be supporting with money raised from fundraising is a trip for the whole of Key Stage 2 to see Jack and the Beanstalk at the Princess Alexander Auditorium at Yarm School. The total cost of ticket and bus for each child is approximately £9 but because of funds raised we will only be asking for a contribution of £3 per child. Live theatre is a fantastic experience but the high cost of it can be very off-putting. We are so pleased to be able to offer this to all our Key Stage 2 children at such a low cost and are sure it is going to be a great morning. More details will follow nearer the time.

### **Dinner Money**

If you pay for your child's school meals, please ensure that you pay at the school office each Monday. If we do not receive regular payment, we will no longer be able to offer a paid meal and a packed lunch will need to be provided. Please also remember that one week's notice must be given if you wish to change your child's meal preference between school dinner and packed lunch. Thank you.

### **School Photographs**

Money and orders must be returned by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you.

### **PD Day**

Please note that school will be closed to children on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November due to staff training.

#### **Christmas Performances**

Please see the diary dates at the end of this letter for details about Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 performances at the end of this term. Tickets will be required for all these performances to ensure we are compliant with fire regulations.

### Dates for the Diary

Please check the website and the school app for updates/changes and additions to these dates.

8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Family Friday – Miss Tumelty
11th Nov	Online Safety Workshop @ 9am
15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	School Closed – PD Day
22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Children in Need
29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Family Friday – Mr Lines
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Steel Pans and KS2 Choir Performance
	10am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Christmas Fair
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Dick Whittington in school
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec - am	KS1 Christmas Performances
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec- am	Early Years Christmas Performance
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec- am	Early Years Christmas Performance
	Christmas Lunch
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	100% Attendance Party
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 Panto Trip - Jack and the Beanstalk
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last day of term
6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	School open – start of term

Please note that the school annexe will be used as a polling station for the General Election due to take place on Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup>.