



Mrs A D Thorpe
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21st October 2022

Dear Parents/carers,

I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday.

Poverty Proofing Audit

As a school, we fully understand the challenge presented to most of our parents with the recent and on-going cost of living crisis. We are working closely with the Local Authority to link up with any services which can help any of our families. We are taking part in a regional wide poverty proofing evaluation and any of your comments would be really helpful. I have uploaded a copy of the letter to the school website for your information.

Whole school Geography day

On Monday 7th November, the whole school will be learning about different countries and then they will come together and celebrate that knowledge as a school community. Mrs McMaster, our Geography Champion, will write out with further information on the first week back after the holidays.

Protect our Planet Day 2022

Thursday 10th November, is Protect our Planet Day 2022, and on Friday 11th November Mr Peacock has arranged for some speakers to come into school and lead some assemblies and workshops with our children. It will really be exciting and I know the children will get a great deal out of the day.

Remembrance Day

Our community will all come together on Friday 11th November as part of Remembrance Day. The children will all take part in a minute's silence together.

Anti-bullying week

Mrs Langford will be leading a great week of positive activities based on reaching out and supporting one another. This will all start off on Monday 14th November with 'odd socks day' celebrating how unique and diverse we all are.

Children in Need

This year we would really like to encourage all of our pupils to come into school dressed in something spotty. It is on Friday 18th November and it is a wonderful way to finish off all the positive work children will have completed around anti-bullying week.

Parents evening dates

After half term, parents are all being invited into school to speak to their child's class and look at their child's books to see the work that they have completed to date. It will be a great opportunity to see how they have settled into their new class. The dates for your diary are Wednesday 2nd November and Thursday 3rd November 2022. There is going to be an online booking system for you all to use.

Gem education will also be holding a parental online safety information evening together with a PowerPoint so that you can ask any questions you like about keeping children safe online. We will also have our new family



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partner, Emma Brumwell, in school available to talk to any family about any support they would like to ask about. She is incredibly knowledgeable and a wonderful support to families, so please feel free to go and have a chat with her.

School photographer

Wednesday 2nd November, the school photographer will be in school taking individual and sibling photographs.

Laing Art Gallery

Year 6 are going to the Laing Art Gallery on Monday 14th November to have a workshop and see the Lindisfarne Gospels. Year 4 are also going for their workshop and viewing of the Lindisfarne Gospels on Monday 21st November.

Gem Education

Mr Hughes is coming into school to lead assemblies on online safety, in an age appropriate way, for each of our key stage groups on Friday 18th November 2022.

Maths Rock Star Day

On Thursday 24th November, there will be a maths rock star day. We would encourage every child to come dressed as a maths rock star, however if dressing up is not your thing then feel free to wear jeans and a jumper, just be ready to take part in all things maths!

Family Explorers

<https://familyexplorers.co.uk/> This is an excellent resource with lots of information about how to access places to go free of charge.

Support the mental health and well-being of our pupils

We have a number of things we are doing in school to support the mental health and well-being of all of our pupils.

- The SEMH groups are now all back up and running and I know that they have been really well received by the children
- The counsellor continues to come in once a week from the road centre
- Rainbows bereavement and therapy sessions are now available for any pupil who needs it
- There are Lego and various therapy groups up and running
- Teachers are running wellbeing drop in sessions for their classes
- Daily emotional check in boards for all children
- Talking groups in the early years
- 20/20/20 lunchtime sessions for the older children
- Mental health and well-being afternoons are being run by class teachers
- Mindful sessions of quiet reflective time are being built into the curriculum through creative prayer and reflection time
- Time out and support sessions for pupils who would benefit from movement breaks and time out of class to stop them becoming overwhelmed
- A plethora of individual bespoke activities have been set up for a number of our children on a 1-2-1 basis
- <https://lonelynotalone.org/> A new website to help some of our children explore their feelings
- There are many more, but these give you a good flavour for what we do to support your children

Advance notice of Advent liturgies – dates for your diary

The Advent liturgies will vary in format but will all be made up of a combination of reading, music, singing and reflective prayer. We would like to invite all of our children's parents to attend their child's class liturgy, if you are working and unable to attend then we would be happy to see grandparents in your place, all we ask is that due to space every family choose to send no more than 4 adults to see your child. If every family adheres to that rule there will be a maximum of 120 adults watching every liturgy.

Class	Date	Time
Rainbows nativity	Tuesday 6 th December 2022	10:00am
Sunshine nativity	Thursday 8 th December 2022	10:00am

Reception Mrs Duffy nativity	Monday 12 th December 2022	10:00am
Reception Miss Rice nativity	Monday 12 th December 2022	2:00pm
Year One – Mrs O’Neil	Tuesday 13 th December 2022	10:00am
Year One Miss Young	Tuesday 13 th December 2022	2:00pm
Year Two Mrs Langford	Wednesday 14 th December 2022	10:00am
Year Two Miss Dean	Wednesday 14 th December 2022	2:00pm
Year Three Mrs Meldrum/Mrs McLean	Thursday 15 th December 2022	10:00am
Year Three Miss Cherry	Thursday 15 th December 2022	2:00pm
Year Four Mr Peacock	Friday 16 th December 2022	10:00am
Year Four Mr Bonnar	Friday 16 th December 2022	2:00pm
Year Five Miss Dolphin	Monday 19 th December 2022	10:00am
Year Five Miss McMaster	Monday 19 th December 2022	2:00pm
Year Six Mr Allen	Wednesday 21 st December 2022	10:00am
Year Six Mrs Spencer / Mrs Black	Wednesday 21 st December 2022	2:00pm

Obviously, times and dates may change and vary nearer the time, but we are hopeful that barring snowstorms or other contingencies we are as yet unaware of, that these dates will be secure.

I hope you all have a safe and restful holiday. We look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 31st October. We continue to keep all of our families in our thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A D Thorpe
Headteacher