

## Enjoy your Half Term Break!

I would first of all like to wish all of you a happy half term and hope that the children (and yourselves) enjoy a well-deserved break, before the big build up to Christmas!

I am sure you will all be very busy at home and I know we will be busy with school productions, community carols, visiting production of the Snow Queen, parties, Christmas lunch and a multitude of other activities.

## Staffing News

We are very pleased to announce that Mrs Brown is expecting her second child and will be going on maternity leave in the second half of the Spring Term. We will, therefore, be recruiting a part-time Year 6 teacher to cover this maternity leave. I am confident that we will find a teacher who will offer the children the same outstanding teaching that they currently enjoy on a Thursday and Friday. I will, of course, inform you when an appointment has been confirmed.

We are also pleased to say that Mrs Stephanie Oliver is joining us as an MSA at lunchtime.

## Harvest Festival

Thank you for your support and generous donations to DENS. Both the Harvest services were lovely and it was fantastic to see so many of you at these events.

The children in Year 4 were a real credit to the school and their parents in the manner in which they delivered the harvest gifts to the elderly members of our community. Each person received a crumble made by Year 1, a card from

our Early Years children, a book mark from Year 2 and a potted plant that was decorated by children across the school.

## Walk to School - Park & Stride

Please continue to support us by not parking on Church Road, The Front, The Green or at the eastern end of Vicarage Road. Children are using the Travel Tracker and if they walk from an approved parking location (or all the way!) twice a week, they will receive a badge at the end of the month.

The Governing Body are continuing to "liaise" with HCC to ensure they provide the additional pavement and parking spaces that were promised...and that they paint the appropriate road markings to ensure safety around the new Pre-School entrance.

## Coats

Please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for the weather. I have noticed several children this week who have arrived at school without a coat. We try to get the children outside as much as possible and we do try to brave the weather if it is 'light' rain.

## Poppies

There will be an opportunity for the children to make a contribution to the British Legion's Poppy appeal. Poppies will be available in school from 2 November. If you wish to make a contribution, please send in a donation with your child. Year 5 will be organising this at morning playtimes.

In addition to this we will be selling some of the Royal British Legion merchandise after school

on Friday 6 November in the school hall. Prices range from 50p to £1.00.

Year 2 are busy with their work on their Poppy display which will be in church in readiness for the service on the 8 November.

### **Photographs**

Individual/sibling photographs will be taken on Wednesday 11 November (letter to follow).

### **Nursery Rhyme/Legend and Myth Week - w/c 16 November**

We will be having a whole week focus on this. Children in Foundation Stage and KS1 will be learning a rhyme a day and doing lots of drama and art work too. Within KS2 we will be broadening our focus by looking at myths and legends and creating drama pieces, newspaper articles and a wide variety of other activities to bring this topic to life.

### **Children in Need - 13 November**

We invite your children to support this worthwhile charity by coming to school dressed as either a 'Super Hero', a 'Hero', or in their own clothes in exchange for a donation of £1.00.

### **Parent Consultations**

Teachers will be available to meet you on 17 and 19 November. You will be receiving your appointment slips after half term. This meeting is an opportunity to discuss how your child has settled in their new class, and for Learning Targets to be clarified and agreed. Parents of children in Foundation Stage may meet with the teacher without their child, but it is vital that children in Years 1-6 attend the meeting. I will be available in the Library to look after babies and toddlers and to answer any questions you might have.

### **Road Safety Week**

W/c 23 November is National Road Safety Week and we will be focusing on 'Drive Less, Live More'. Throughout this week we will be looking at lessons focusing on this topic and we will be having a fun quiz on the Thursday to end the week.

### **Music Lessons**

Ruth Seodi has advised us that she has spaces for individual/shared piano and violin lessons. If you would like further information, please contact the office and they will provide details. Mrs Seodi would also like to put out a request for a keyboard - if anybody has one they no longer need, please could you let the office know. Thank you.

### **Iron Request!**

Year 6 are looking for a donation of an old iron that they can use for a wax project (it will be rendered useless following this!). If you have one you can donate, please contact the office.

I feel it has been a very successful start back to an exciting new academic year. I have been really impressed with the quality of teaching in school and the enthusiasm and dedication the children have demonstrated within their learning.

Once again it continues to be a privilege to be Head Teacher of Potten End C of E Primary School.

Andrew Morris  
Head Teacher