

November Newsletter

Welcome back after the holidays.

Children in Need

Children in Need is on Friday 16th November. This year, the theme will be 'spots', so we would like the children to come dressed in spots for the day. There will be buckets out for voluntary contributions at both the start and end of the day. All money raised will go to Children in Need.

Request from FAB

With the Christmas Fair only five weeks away, FAB are keen to ensure the tombola and raffle are both well-stocked with prizes. In order to help with this, they have asked if we can have a 'bring a bottle' disco for the children, which we will be doing on Friday 24th November. All children need to do is bring a bottle to school to gain free entrance to a lunchtime disco. Donations will be collected in classes on Friday morning. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

FAB are also offering stalls for only £15 plus a raffle donation. If you know of anybody who would like one, please ask them to contact school.

If anyone has any spare time to help FAB with the Christmas Fair, or if you think you have a product or service that you would like to add to the raffle prizes, please do not hesitate to contact me at school and I will pass your details on.

Contact Details

It is very important that we have current and up-to-date phone numbers and contact details for every child in school at all times. If any of the contact details that we store for your child change, you must let us know the new information as soon as possible. Failure to do so can often pose problems when we need to contact you regarding your child.

Homework and Reading Champions

Last term, we had approximately 90% of all the children in school completing their homework each week, which is fabulous! We are very grateful for your help and support in ensuring it is completed.

Our Reading Champion numbers are also increasing however we do need more children reading every night. The progress of the children who do read all the time has been incredible and I hope that becoming a Reading Champion will spur them on even more.

Staffing Update

We are also delighted to announce that Miss Woodhouse gave birth to a baby boy over the half-term holidays. His name is Ronnie and we look forward to seeing very soon.

We are also having a move around of some of our teaching assistants from this half-term. Mrs Carroll will be moving to work in Nursery and Mrs Pashley will be working with Mrs Wilkinson's class up until the end of the academic year.

Parent's Evening

Our Parent's Evenings in October were extremely well-attended and overwhelmingly positive. The atmosphere in school was great and demonstrated the close partnerships that we have with you all and how much we value the help and support you provide for school. If at any time throughout the year you wish to discuss your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's teacher.

Celebration Assemblies

We love our Celebration Assemblies - it is one of the highlights of the week for us all and it is great that we can share it with parents. Please see the timetable of assemblies for your child's class below. Please let us know your thoughts on the new assembly format.

Date	Reception/Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
9 th November 2018	Year 2	Years 3 and 6
16 th November 2018	No assembly: Children in Need	
23 rd November 2018	Year 1	Years 4 and 5
30 th November 2018	Reception	Years 3 and 6
7 th December 2018	No assembly: Christmas Fair	
14 th December 2018	Year 2	Years 4 and 5
21 st December 2018	No assembly: last day of term	

Uniform

Last term, we had a huge amount of uniform left over: from jumpers and coats to t-shirts and cardigans. A lot of this was not named which makes it very difficult for staff to return it to its owners. Can I ask again that you ensure that all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name and class. Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this matter. We are currently looking into ways that we can get the lost property we currently have in school back to its rightful owners.

Morning Drop-Offs and Collections

If you have to drop your children in the morning, can you please do so away from the zebra crossing and yellow zig-zag lines. Stopping here often causes congestion and is an accident waiting to happen. Over the next few weeks, there will be regular patrols around school and cars parked or pulled over to drop-off where they should not be will get a ticket.

I have also been in communication with the local councillors to discuss the need to improve parking and crossing facilities on Park Lane. I will keep everyone updated on the outcome and if anyone is keen to help and support with this campaign please let me know.

Congratulations

Well done to everyone who was chosen as the 'Pride of Allerton Bywater' in celebration assembly on Friday afternoon last half-term. I know how difficult it is for teachers to choose sometimes - especially when everyone in the class has worked hard and made great choices all week!

School Development Plan

So far this year, we have introduced a new assessment tracking system for the teachers to use to track the children's learning. This has proved very effective so far and has really helped the teachers identify any gaps the children may have in their learning.

With regards to Reading, over the last half term Mrs Brown has been very busy finding out about the reading habits of the school in a bid to see if we can encourage all children to find the reading bug. She has also revamped Guided Reading across the school with a focus on deeper understanding of texts by using real books as well as higher ordering questioning around inference.

We will also be reviewing our maths curriculum throughout the year which started just before we broke up with a visit from a Local Authority Maths Advisor. This has provided us with some clear actions to work on throughout the year.

Diary Dates for this half-term

Date	Activity
Monday 5 th November	School re-opens
Friday 9 th November	FAB Meeting: 900am
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th Nov	Anti-Bullying week
Friday 16 th November	Children in Need
Tuesday 20 th November	F1 initial open sessions, new starters - PM
Friday 23 rd November	FAB Meeting: 900am
Monday 26 th November	F1 settling in sessions - PM
Thursday 29 th November	Stay and Learn (all school) 900-1000am
Thursday 13 th December	Reception and Key Stage 1 Pantomime
Thursday 6 th December	F1 settling in sessions - PM
Friday 7 th December	F2 Dress Rehearsal - AM
Friday 7 th December	Christmas Fair 315-445pm
Tuesday 11 th December	Nursery Christmas Concert - AM
Tuesday 11 th December	F2 Christmas show - PM
Wednesday 12 th December	F2 Christmas show - AM
Wednesday 12 th December	KS1 FAB Movie Night 315-415pm
Thursday 13 th December	Nursery Christmas Concert - AM
Thursday 13 th December	KS2 FAB Movie Night 315-445pm
Friday 14 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 17 th December	Parents open sessions 330-445pm
Tuesday 18 th December	Parents open sessions 330-445pm
Tuesday 18 th December	Year 1 Performances - AM and PM
Tuesday 18 th December	Christmas dinner
Tuesday 18 th December	Nursery Christmas party
Wednesday 19 th December	Xmas Church: Rec & Y2: 945am, Y3 & Y4: 1030am, Y1, Y5 & Y6: 1100am
Thursday 20 th December	Nursery Christmas party
Thursday 20 th December	School Christmas Parties - PM
Thursday 20 th December	Nursery Home Visits - AM
Friday 21 st December	Nursery Home Visits - AM
Friday 21 st December	Non-uniform day School closes for Christmas
Monday 7 th January	School re-opens

A Message from the Head Teacher

When I get the opportunity to reflect on all the work that happens on a day-to-day basis, I often think that Allerton Bywater Primary must be one of the busiest schools in the country! As well as the everyday activities of teaching and learning (which is always our top priority!), the final week before half-term included: Esh Construction working with Y2 on a STEM project; teacher training as part of our journey towards attaining the Primary Science Quality Mark, the Silver Friends visiting Year 5; parent's evenings; Year 5 and 6 buddy leader training; and lots of meetings about how we can make teaching and learning even better in our school. It is fantastic to be part of an establishment where

energy levels are so high and where everything we do enhances and furthers learning. As our motto says, *“learning matters – make every day count”*.

If there is anything in this newsletter that you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact school.

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