

Dear Parents

Harvest Festival Donations:

Many thanks for all of your generous donations for the Charles Thompson Mission - we were amazed by the amount we collected and Bernie from the mission was most appreciative. He visited school again last Friday to explain a little more about the fabulous work the Charity does for the people of Wirral.

Reverse Advent Calendar Appeal:

December is just around the corner and in homes across the country, cardboard doors will be opened on advent Calendars on a daily basis as we begin the Christmas countdown. We have decided to reverse things this Christmas with every class giving something back instead. This ties in brilliantly with our November values of Respect and Cooperation and our December values of Thoughtfulness and Gratitude. Each class has been given a box for the month of November and, instead of opening an advent door to a picture or a chocolate, we are asking the staff and children to donate an item instead. We are hoping to have a least 7 boxes of goodies ready to drop off at the Charles Thompson Mission ready for the start of December so they can distribute the boxes to needy families/individuals. Items needn't cost a lot of money the charity would like tinned items (beans, soups, fruit etc), packet items (pasta, biscuits, UHT milk, teabags, biscuits etc), 'luxury' items e.g. (sweets, chocolate, snacks) and toiletries or cleaning products (toilet rolls, wipes, soap, toothpaste etc). The charity is appreciative of anything we can provide. So, the next time you are doing your weekly food shop, please bear this venture in mind and send your child in with a small item. Each Advent Box will be decorated in Christmas paper and hopefully the children will get a lot out of help others less fortunate than themselves at this busy time of year. Thank you in advance for your help. The whole process will be co-ordinated by our eager School Councillors (building on their success last year when they filled Christmas bags for the North Birkenhead Development Trusts). Perishable items, Frozen items and alcohol cannot be accepted. Please note, this venture is instead of the Rotary Shoebox Appeal.

1918 - 2018

As you will no doubt be aware this coming Sunday marks 100 years since the end of World War One. Staff and children have been working very hard with Lily's Mum to mark the anniversary and every child has painted a pebble which will be displayed in our central quad. Year Four and Mrs Marsland have also done a fabulous job of creating our own "Wall of Poppies" to pay tribute and honour all soldiers from the past and present. We will have a two minute silence on Monday 12th November. Thank you Mrs Marland and Lily's Mum.

Random Act of Kindness Week:

Next week will see us mark National Anti-Bullying Week with a range of activities. To mark the occasion in a positive way and to complement November's School Values of Respect and Co-operation, we have decided to conduct a secret Random Acts of Kindness week! Each child will pick a name of another child in their class and secretly perform a kindly gesture. The gesture will cost no money and will be completely anonymous. It might be anything from a kindly smile... an invitation to join in with a game at playtime... holding the door open... a compliment...the opportunities are endless! Again, this will all be organised by our fabulous School Council.

Congratulations Miss Arden:

We are delighted to report that Miss Arden has had a baby boy! Oliver was born on Sunday 28th October and weighed 8lb 1oz. Mum and baby are doing really well and we are sure you'll join us in extending our best wishes and congratulations to Miss Arden and Mr Young. We can't wait to meet Baby Oliver!

Diary Dates:

05.11.18	Diwali Dance Morning in Year Two
07.11.18	Year 2 Visit
W/C 12.11.18	Anti -Bullying Week
14.11.18	Year 2 Class assembly 10am. Teas and coffees available from 9:15 am
16.11.18	Children in Need Cake Sale. Children can wear 'Own Clothes' in return for voluntary donations. We understand that many of you prefer to donate at home while watching the Children In Need television coverage. If that is the case then you can still join in... there is no stipulation to donate as we know it's a busy time of the year! Cakes will be available to purchase for a small donation. Parents are welcome to attend a Children in Need coffee morning in the canteen from 9am once they have dropped their children off. Thank you POTS.
21.11.18	DATE CHANGE 3:30 - 5:30 Christmas Craft Evening KS1 and KS2 Event - tbc
30.11.18	1:00 -3:00 Dress rehearsal at Church - We would welcome several parents volunteers to help walk us to the church.
29.11.18	Christmas Fair 3.30pm - 5.30pm.
03.12.18 and 04.12.18	6pm-7pm KS2 Christmas performance at St Michael's Church Pensby.
07.12.18	Round Table Santa Wagon, All help gratefully received. Please let POTS know if you are able to help.
13.12.18 at 2:15pm	KS1 Nativity in School Hall
14.12.18 at 9:30am	KS1 Nativity in School Hall
19.12.18	Christmas Jumper Day. Breakfast with Santa - details to follow
20.12.08	Toy Day and Own Clothes

NB A POTS Newsletter will follow with further details next week.

Themed Week:

We held a very successful themed week in the final week of Term 1 A based on "Wonderful Wirral", a celebration of all that makes our peninsula and the surrounding areas such a superb place to live. Each class teacher decided on a slightly different focus which really made for an excellent cross-curricular locality approach...

FS2 - Focussed on Geography and Literacy with a Royden Park/Percy the Park Keeper week and map work based on the immediate locality.

Year One - Year One introduced the local library through an English themed topic - they will be visiting Pensby Library later in the year.

Year Two - Year Two focussed on History and Geography with a topic about Birkenhead Park and Port Sunlight, culminating in a wonderful visit earlier on this week.

Year Three - Year Three decided to enhance their Art and History curriculum with a visit to the Williamson Art Gallery to find out about animals in art and Della Robbia, the Birkenhead based ceramics designer.

Year Four - Year Four had great fun finding out about the sculptor, Anthony Gormley and his figures on Crosby beach. They even made their own clay figures as part of their Art curriculum. Year Four also welcomed in Rich (Wirral Youth for Christ) and John (St Michael's Church, Pensby) for a stained glass window RE afternoon which was very interesting (not to mention very messy). Year Five also made stained glass windows with Rich and John (see below).

Year Five - Year Five enhanced their History provision by researching the Landican Air Crash. Jake was able to interview the local landowner's son (Miles Duncan) and the children enjoyed finding out about the incident from primary and secondary sources.

Year Six - Year Six got engrossed in local History by finding out about smugglers from the past and, in particular, how the local coastline of Thurston and Heswall featured.

NHS Competition:

You may remember that the whole school entered an NHS competition last summer to celebrate 50 years of the NHS. We are pleased to announce that two of our pupils were selected as winners for our area - Ahmed and Soraya who are both in Year Six. Both pupils will have their work displayed on the wall at The Warren's Medical Centre. Well done children and thank you to everyone who entered the competition, Dr Johnston said the standard was extremely high.

Pedometer Challenge:

During lunchtimes this week, Year 6 have been taking part in a Pedometer challenge. They have been provided with a selection of different activities from Premier Sports and lunchtime staff to ensure they can gain the highest possible targets. Prizes have been awarded in the form of team points for those children who have completed the most steps each lunchtime and further team points are to be awarded for our overall champion for the week. This competition will continue in the forthcoming weeks, with different year groups taking part. It will culminate in a Pedometer Class V Class Showdown later on this term! Thank you to Mr Bettridge and Premier Sports for organising this PE/Maths challenge.

Times Table Rock Star Launch:

We will be launching our Times Table Rock Star programme across school in the first week back after Christmas. Times Table Rock Stars is an on-line package designed to promote speed and accuracy of times tables recall. To celebrate the launch, which will take place on Friday 11th January, we are inviting all children and staff to come to school for the day dressed as rock stars (with sensible shoes and a warm coat of course!) Mr Hartley from Premier Sports is also organising a Sponsored Rockathon where we will encourage each other to dance and play the air guitar! Details and sponsor forms will follow before the end of term. Certificates and prizes will be given for the best dressed rock star, most authentic rock star, best dancer, best air guitar, best attitude, most improved dancer, and the rock star who manages to collect the most sponsor money. We will provide details nearer to the time but, for now, we thought we'd let you know in advance to enable you all to start planning your outfits!

Celebration Corner:

Rocky (Year Two) – Congratulations Rocky for doing brilliantly on your intensive swimming course! ☺

Amber (Year Four) – Well done to Amber for donating half of her trick or treat sweeties to a house who had run out of sweets – very kind! Also congratulations for getting a bronze medal at the Lancashire Open Judo Competition – competing against 10 year olds! ☺

Luca (Year Two) – Well done Luca for being awarded the Golden Boot: Man of the Match for a recent football match. ☺

Sophie (Year Four) – Well done Sophie for being awarded your Level Seven Gymnastics badge at your gym club! ☺

Nyree (Year Five) – Congratulations to Nyree who won a gold and two silver medals at a recent swimming gala in Llandudno! ☺

Ava (Year Two) – Well done Ava for making your Brownie Promise at 2nd Pensby Rainbows! ☺

Lily (Year Two) – Congratulations Lily on taking part in a 5K Fun Run at Croxteth Park! ☺

Charlotte (Year Five) – Well done Charlotte! Her dance troop came first and second at a recent competition in Birkenhead High School Academy. ☺

With best wishes for a lovely weekend

Miss D L Cronin