

Headteacher's Weekly Briefing: 30/10/2023

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.” *Matthew 22: 34-40*

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful half term break and we are all ready for what is always a very busy but exciting half term.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the school to keep our attendance figures high last half term – let’s try and keep this going!. Congratulations goes to St David’s class who achieved the best attendance for the first half term - they have a special trophy to keep in their classroom and this Friday, 3rd November, as a reward they can come to school in their own clothes – Well done!!

It is also well done to St David’s class who had the best attendance in the last week before the holiday. John Bear will be spending this week in their classroom where I am sure he will have a great time!!

Wednesday 1st November is **All Saints Day** and the children are having a special whole school assembly to celebrate. **Saints** are people who the Church recognises as role models of love and who are already in heaven. We can call upon these saints, knowing that they will pray to God with us and for us.

In the Gospel reading, the blessings which promise happiness are called the Beatitudes and they show us the path that will lead us closer to God. The **Saints** tried hard to follow this path in their day to day lives – Jesus calls us to do the same. This Gospel is one of the most well - known passages in the Bible and has guided **saints** throughout the years.

We are also thinking about our school Values of **Goodness** and **Love** this week – they both help us to have a real and true feeling in your heart towards God and to be good towards others, to make the right choices and live the way Jesus tells us to.

Pope Francis says: “To be blessed means to be happy.”

This week, let us all decide on one way that we can live more like Jesus and as a family, try to find out more about the lives of the **saints**.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal—All donations or your own shoeboxes need to be brought into school by next **Friday, 17th November**

Just to let you all know that we are expecting an OFSTED Inspection anytime this half term! As soon as we hear we will let you know as there will be a parents’ questionnaire to complete which we would really appreciate your support with. Thank you

Diary Dates for this week:

Wednesday 1st November – Halloween Discos. Don’t forget to come and buy your Halloween disco tickets from the school office this week! Tickets are £3.

Thursday 2nd November; F2 Phonics Workshops—There will be one session in the morning (9.00am-10.00am) and one in the afternoon (2.00pm-3.00pm), so hopefully you will be able to attend one of these and have the opportunity to work with your child. Make sure you have signed up for it.

Countdown to Christmas— dates and reminders:

Wednesday 8th November: Parents’ Online Safety Meeting (2pm)

Thursday 9th November: Nasal Flu Vaccinations - The Nasal Flu Vaccination will be taking place in school on this day. Please make sure you have completed your e-consent vaccination form online before this date.

Monday 13th November: Individual & Family Photos

Monday 13th November: Anti Bullying Week “Make a noise about bullying”

Tuesday 14th November: Mental Health Worries Workshop for Parents (9am)

Wednesday 15th November: *St Nicholas (Mr Muskett) Class Assembly ((9am): Make a Noise About Bullying*

Friday 17th November: Odd Socks Day-celebrating what makes us all unique for Anti Bullying Week

Wednesday 22nd November: We are delighted once again to be taking part this year in the special sponsored run in support of St John’s Hospice. This year it will be a Reindeer Run!! - More details to follow!!

Friday 24th November – Own Clothes Day – Raffle Prizes for Christmas Raffles

Thursday 30th November – **St Andrew Feast Day**

Sunday 3rd December: ADVENT SUNDAY

Wednesday 6th December: Christmas Dinner Day for Children and Staff - On this day, the staff will join the children in the hall for Christmas dinner at lunchtime.

Friday 8th December: Christmas Jumper Day & £2 donation for colouring competition - On this day we ask for a pound donation and everyone to come into school wearing either Christmas jumpers or something Christmassy! During the day, the children will be taking part in the Christmas colouring competition. There will be two winners from each class.

Christmas Plays: We know how popular these performances are and how crowded they can be. With that in mind and to continue to keep to a safe number of people in the hall, we will be holding **two performances on each of the days (Morning performance 9.45am; Afternoon performance 1.45pm). Each child will be given two tickets for each session, 4 tickets in total.** Entry will be by ticket only and these will be sent out nearer the time

Monday 11th December: Pre School Christmas Play

Tuesday 12th December: Y1 Christmas Play

Wednesday 13th December: F2 Christmas Play

Thursday 14th December: Y2 Carol Service

Friday 15th December - Mission Day-St John the Evangelist Feast Day - Before half term we took time to find out about St Luke the Physician on his feast day. On this day, the children will be taking the time to learn all about St John the Evangelist as our school is named after him and his feast day is during the Christmas holiday.

Monday 18th December: Christmas Discos for all the children (F2/Preschool straight after school); Year 1 & Year 2 : 4.15pm (More details to follow nearer the time)

Tuesday 19th December: Mass for Year 1 & Year 2 in church

Wednesday 20th December: Christmas Party Day (Own Clothes)

Thursday 21st December: Finish for Christmas Holiday - children can be picked up from 1.30pm

Monday 8th January: Children return to school (8.45am)

Have a great week!

Mrs M S Bulmer