



# Weekly Newsletter

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Discussion of the Week

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a good Christmas and a restful holiday break. Children have come back to school with renewed energy and topics are already up and running. The children in YR continue to learn their phonics sounds and are continuing to learn how to form letters using our Kinetic Letters script. They have also been measuring people who help us this week, working together to use lengths of string to compare taller and shorter adults. Y1/2 have started the term immersing themselves into a rich text in English. I have seen some children for merits in Y1 who have made super observations of the characters and written great questions about them.

Y3/4's rich text has them already focused on some big environmental themes. Y3 have also been looking at news clips of the recent and ongoing bushfires in Australia that have dominated the headlines over the last few weeks.

Y5/6 have begun the term immersing themselves into knowledge of Antarctica, as part of their text about Ernest Shackleton. Their topic of exploration follows on throughout this half term. Class assemblies begin soon which are always a great way of sharing what the children have been learning.

All children are working incredibly hard on handwriting and many of them will be proud of the rapid progress they are making with this. At the end of November, staff received a day of training on the Kinetic Letters programme, which has been in place in YR/1/2 since September. KS2 classes began to learn this immediately after the INSET session. Miss Halton is planning to run a parent workshop about this later this term so that you know how it all fits together.

### Board Games plea

We remain on the hunt for used board games for Breakfast Club so that we can refresh what we have in school. If you have sorted anything out or have anything you wish to donate, please drop them in to the school office.

### Some polite reminders:

- For winter months, children need to have coats, hats and gloves for the cold weather as we intend for them to be outside when it is cold to play.
- Additionally, they need trousers and a warm layer for outdoor PE which continues throughout the colder months.
- School shoes should be worn.
- Long hair should be tied back with plain hairbands for school and for PE. Any headbands worn should be minimal.
- Jewellery should be minimised to stud earrings in pierced ears and watches only (fitbits are allowed). There should be no additional bracelets or wristbands. *Thank you for your help with this.*

### Attendance

Now we have had a complete term in school I will be sending home with children their attendance overviews for the period from the beginning of the school year until the end of today (10<sup>th</sup> January). With this will be a reminder about the importance of securing good attendance for children. Governors, parents (at Parent Forum) and children have discussed the pros and cons of awarding certificates for 100% attendance and we have planned to phase these out.

*Hayley Ferguson*

**What will you try to do differently in 2020 than in 2019?**

### Birthday of the Week



Dame Maggie Smith  
1934 -

### Merits

- Bronze** - Ethan (Y1)
- Silver** - Grace (Y6)
- Ruby** - Rosie R (Y6)
- Pearl** - Lily (Y4) Ruby (Y6)
- Platinum** - Phoebe (Y6)

**Well Done!**

### Dates for Diary

**13<sup>th</sup> Jan – Clubs start**  
**(if you have not heard anything your child will be attending that club)**

**13<sup>th</sup> Jan – SATs Information Evening**  
6pm in School Hall.

**23<sup>rd</sup> Jan – Y5 Class Assembly 2.30pm**  
followed by work sharing

**30<sup>th</sup> Jan – Y3 Class Assembly 2.30pm**  
followed by work sharing

### **Learning Values Champions (Autumn 2- Independence)**

- YR – Ophelia
- Y1 – Tilly-Marie
- Y2 – Flynn
- Y3 – Evalyn
- Y4 – Tyler
- Y5 – Dallas
- Y6 – Grace

***Well done all of you! We are proud of the role models that you are.***

**This Week's Winning Team**

**ELM**

**INSET dates 2019/2020 February 24<sup>th</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>**