



Do Everything with Love *(1 Corinthians 16:14)*

November Newsletter 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

November has been a time for reflection whilst momentarily we notice, we have been naturally surrounded by the exquisite blanket of Autumnal beauty. Is it there to remind us of a certain presence in our midst or could it be a reminder of what we could lose if we don't look after our planet?

Our Year 5 children have risen to the challenge of leadership this month. They led a very respectful Remembrance day service on the playground which gave us all the opportunity to remember loved ones who risked their lives for us. Then, they also created a film to help teach others about climate change and our responsibility to help the planet. You can see the remembrance photos and the film on our November news page. How proud of them we are!

A few weeks ago we reflected on Jesus' story of the fig tree. (Mark 13:28-31). The message of this Gospel being that in times of darkness, Jesus is always there with us, we just need to call him through our prayers. Today we might relate this story to the poppy flower rather than the fig. The poppy represents perseverance and hope as it survived the barren ground and brought hope through its growth on the battlefields. It is only fitting to complete the month of November by taking a moment to reflect again on the Flanders Day poem written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, M.D. while he was serving on the front lines. We will remember them.

Best wishes,

Mrs Christopher



In Flanders Fields
John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Parent Survey

Thank you to all of you who have completed the parent survey. The survey closes on Sunday 28th November. We will provide feedback on findings and follow up actions in the next few weeks.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ZgtdpWjPeqoNDxF9JYermSCBbSiKqvdonj3QSiVamAo/edit>

Pope Francis & The Synodal Journey

Pope Francis has initiated a 'synodal journey' for us - the universal Church- and he invites us all to participate in the first phase of a two-year process. Between October 2021 and April 2022, we are asked to listen to each other, reflect and discuss our mission as a Church of people.

Synodality means walking together and listening to one another but above all to the Holy Spirit. During Advent, we will be reflecting on the following questions and we invite all parents to join us in these reflections:

Week 1: Sharing the mission of Jesus

Week 2: How we pray together

Week 3: Building our Community

Please join us each week in saying the following 'Walking Together' Prayer

Father, we thank you for the love you have shown us in the gift of Jesus, your Son.

We thank you for the gift of the Church, through which you show us that you are always with us and are always at work in our lives.

As we journey together to Synod 2023 help us to become the Church that you are calling us to be.

May your Holy Spirit be powerfully at work among us. Strengthen each of us and guide Francis, our Pope and Mark, our Bishop.

Help us to respond to the challenges of our times in new ways to bring your love to all our sisters and brothers. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ Our Lord. AMEN

St Boniface: Pray for us!



SYMBOLISM OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The four Sundays preceding Christmas, which is when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, are recognized for four virtues. The candles on the Advent wreath symbolize **hope, love, joy and peace**. Each week one candle is lit in the build up to Christmas. On Christmas day, the centre candle is lit to symbolise the birth of Jesus- the light of the world.



A very **BIG** thank you to **Wool & East Stoke Community Chest Team** who have **given us a donation of £424.47** to go towards cushions and artificial grass for our outside well-being shelter area. The team have supported our school in many ways over the last few years and we are very grateful to them especially Bex Cady and the PTFA who completed the request forms for us this year.

It is worth mentioning that we are still awaiting requested paid experts to erect the well-being shelter area and the reading den received from last year's funding. Unfortunately, the people requested are very busy and small jobs like this are not a priority. If you are or know someone who would have the appropriate skills and expertise for these jobs, please let us know.

ECO WARRIORS BLOG: 'We are the Eco Warriors of 2021'

We have made a film about Climate change. Please watch it on our website on the November 'News' tab.

Remember to keep the planet clean and save the amount of water and electricity you use by not leaving taps running and turning lights off when not needed.



After School 'extra' clubs

We understand the importance of providing a wider curriculum for the children and our staff are willing to give some of their time to provide extra clubs after school from 3:15 -4:10 pm. Currently, Mrs Dale is having a dance club on Mondays. Next half term Mrs Henderson will lead a Science club for KS2 children on Thursdays .

Mrs Goodfield will lead a craft club on Wednesdays

To book for these clubs, you will need to go on parentmail and book into afterschool club on the required days paying the required fee.

Note: Families in receipt of pupil premium funding do not have to pay for extra clubs.

Please note we are trying to get football clubs going but are finding it difficult to get suitable coaches for after school hours. We will keep pursuing this.

SCHOOL COUNCIL INITIATIVES



The School Council raised **£153.80** for 'BBC Children in Need' by organising fun activities in the school hall- well done to all of you! They would like to say a big thank you to all of you who made donations.



100%

Attendance - current attendance 95% (National expectation 96%)

Here are some tips for the children (and us!) on how to keep healthy over the Winter period.

- 1. Go to bed on time and get enough sleep**
- 2. Eat healthily**
- 3. Drink lots of water.**

We encourage all children to attend school daily if they can but we also know that in the current climate, this is not always possible as we need to keep each other safe. Also, on other occasions we are too ill to attend.

Punctuality - We are still having some children persistently late for school each day. Please remember if your child is late, you need to fill in a slip in the front foyer. Please try to get your child to school on time for their sake and the sake of the others in class. If you need support, please get in touch. We can help reward your child for good timekeeping of that is the issue. Please look at the 5 tips on the link below to help you help them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIXA57oI848>

Christmas Carols & Nativities

In light of the COVID situation, we have been discussing how we can give children the opportunity to participate in our usual Christmas preparations whilst still being cautious. Plan 'A' is to have separate class nativity story performances for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 on the last week of term at 2:15 each day in the hall. Plan 'A' would mean parents could watch the performance (2 per family) on their child's day. Plan 'B' would be recorded performances on the school website. The Plan A days would be:

Mon 13th Year2

Tues 14th Year 1

Wed 15th Reception class.

The older children will have a short carol singing service at 3pm

on:

Wed 15th - Y3 & 4

Thurs 16th - Y5 & 6

We will confirm if plan A can definitely go ahead for all these events on Thursday 9th December

Dates for your diary

Sunday 28th December First Sunday of Advent (four in total)

Friday 10th December National Christmas Jumper day (non uniform) & PTFA Christmas Fayre day

Wednesday 15th December Christmas Lunch Day KS2 & party clothes

Thursday 16th December Christmas Lunch Day KS1 & party clothes

Last day of term Friday 17th December 1:30pm finish -wear you Christmas jumper again (non uniform)

Wednesday 5th January 2022 Children return to school after Christmas holidays

[PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF INSET DAY IN SUMMER TERM 2022](#)

This has changed from Monday 6th June to Monday **16th May**

*Apologies for the change but our training facilitator could not do the original date.



Due to COVID restrictions and advice from CAST the PTFA won't be doing a normal Christmas Fayre this year.

We would like the children to have some fun with our **Class Christmas Crafts** activities which we have planned for the afternoon of Friday 10th Dec... This will request a voluntary donation from families to cover PTFA costs.

We will also be doing the **Present Room**- for our newer families to SMSJ this is a favourite at our usual Christmas fayre.

Over the next few weeks we will be asking the children to bring in donations for the present room, please send some nice gift items in, as your child may just buy it for you! (Gifts for females and also males).

During the day of **Class Christmas Crafts**, send your child in with some money. The **presents will be £1 each**, and each class will be invited to the present room so they can buy as many as they like, Mum, Dad, Granny, Grandad, etc the PTFA will then wrap for them and then they can take home to put under the tree for Christmas day!

Friday 10th December is also **National Christmas Jumper day**, so send your child in with their favourite Christmas Jumper or top or Christmas outfit.(non uniform day)

We will also be doing a **Christmas Raffle**, in the next few weeks your child will be sent home with 2 raffle books/10 tickets each ticket is £1, please buy and sell to other family members too! Be in for a chance to win some fantastic prizes including £50 cash prize! If you need more tickets please collect from the school office. Return the money and stubs in an envelope to the **PTFA postbox situated in the foyer of the school office** by Monday 6th December and the draw will take place in a virtual capacity on Friday 10th Dec and the winners will be contacted to come and collect their prizes by Fri 17th Dec.

Thank you so much in advance for your continued support to the PTFA in these unusual and difficult times of fundraising
The PTFA Team

Dorset Road safety Team



Over the next few weeks neighbourhood officers will routinely visit the school in order to assess danger levels and will give us feedback. Please drive carefully in and out of the car park especially on dark, wet and windy days when people are rushing and visibility is poor. We must all help each other to keep our children safe. Also be mindful when reversing as little people can be difficult to see in your car mirrors.

'NUT FREE SCHOOL' REMINDER

Please remember we have children with nut allergies, therefore do not allow any foods containing nuts in your child's school lunch.



The 'High 5' Reading Challenge Update

I'm delighted to announce that many children are now receiving their 50 reading signature certificates. These children will be given the optional task of reading a Christmas story to other classes in their key stage. This will help them to develop their skills in reading to an audience and also help others to enjoy listening to stories.

