



A BIG HELLO to everyone in our school community! I have to say that it is wonderful to be writing a 'normal' newsletter again after what seems like such a long time...

I took the decision to keep my communications with our families in letter form over the last few months, particularly if there were important COVID-19 related messages which needed to be shared, however I feel that now is the time that we need to get back to some semblance of normality and share some of the lovely things that have been happening in school and celebrate our wonderful children's achievements!

There are a lot of updates for me to share with you all, so here goes...



## Virtual Advent Calendar

In light of the fact that we are unfortunately unable to do face to face Christmas performances this year due to social distancing guidelines, we will be sharing our 'SGFS Virtual Advent Calendar' starting from Tuesday December 1st.

From this date, we will be releasing a video each day (on some days 2 videos) of different classes of children singing Christmas songs, reciting Christmas poems, telling festive jokes and even doing a 'Virtual Nativity'. We hope that this will at least enable our families to see their children taking part in some lovely Christmas celebration events and spread some festive cheer in the absence of any face to face performances this year. Please note—All of our pupils will be a part of learning and singing the songs and poems etc, however, we will ensure that for any pupils who do not have parental permission, that they will not have their photo or video shared.

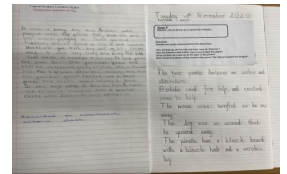
## Steel Pans

Our Y3 children have been having a wonderful time with Mrs Brydon who has lead some socially distanced steel pan sessions playing some festive tunes! Check out our twitter page to hear more!



## Handwriting

Currently in school, we are having a really big push on handwriting and presentation. We believe that having high standards and expectations when it comes to presentation is really important for our children, as aside from making all of their workbooks look beautiful, it also teaches our children to take a real pride in their work. We are so pleased with the progress which so many of our pupils have made with their handwriting and number formation and how much more care they are taking with their activities. This is just one example of a 'before' and 'after' shot. Well done SGFS pupils!



## Blended Learning Policy & COVID-19 Recovery Plan

It is important for our whole school community to know that our 'Blended Learning' offer and guide for parents is now live on our school website. This details the home learning our families can expect if their child has to remain off school for a COVID-19 related reason. In addition, our COVID-19 recovery plan is also available to view on our website.

## Children In Need

As you all know, it was 'Children in Need' day last week and we all wore our pyjamas to school (at the request of Mrs Dixon). Thanks to the kindness and generosity of all of our families, we managed to raise an amazing £763.87—More than double compared to last year! Thank you!

## New School Curriculum

After well over a year in the making, our amazing teacher subject leaders have designed and created our brand new curriculum which we have been using in school since September. We are so incredibly proud of it! Please do take a look at it under the curriculum section of our website.

## Maths Week

This week, we have been having a brain-busting Maths week all across school where the children completed all kinds of Maths problems and reasoning tasks which were really tricky! We learned a lot about our core value of 'perseverance' and not giving up! There was some really super work from all of our pupils!



## Nut Free School

A polite reminder to all of our families that we are a 'Nut Free School'. We have noticed that some pupils are starting to bring in peanut butter sandwiches and other products containing nuts in to school in their packed lunches. We do have a number of children in school who have nut allergies, some of them severe, so it really is vitally important that no items containing nuts come in to school. Thanking you all in advance.

## Dogs & Playground Equipment

A huge thank you to all of our parents and carers who are managing with the staggered start and finish times. This really is helping to keep our community safe and is much appreciated. May we please politely remind you all that children must stay off the climbing equipment in the playground before and after school. This is really important—We don't allow any children to play on this equipment during the day to avoid cross contamination between bubble groups. In addition, may we also remind our parents and carers who bring dogs to school that they must pick them up and carry them as they go in to the playground please. Many thanks.

## Mrs Whitehouse & 'Punctuation Pixies'

As you are all aware, Mrs Whitehouse is currently recuperating at home after her recent operation. I know that everyone in our community wishes her a speedy recovery and can't wait for her to get back to school. However, as we all expected, Mrs Whitehouse can't sit around for too long (even after a serious op) so she has been busy creating these strange little creatures for us! After many guesses from the children, I can in fact reveal that they are 'Punctuation Pixies' - More information will follow soon... Watch this space!



## PSHE & 'No Outsiders' Programme

New statutory guidance states that we must have our new PSHE curriculum up and running by the end of the Summer term 2021. Mrs Fields has spent a long time creating a fantastic new, contemporary PSHE curriculum which is really reflective of the modern world which we live in. We were lucky enough to have Mr Andrew Moffat come to visit us and deliver his 'No Outsiders' training which is based upon the Equality Act and holds the tagline 'We are all different, but we are all welcome'. This will form a big part of our PSHE curriculum. We will be consulting with our families on this next week for Y1 to Y4 and the week after for Reception parents via 'Zoom'. Please do join the meeting for your child's year group if you have any questions that you would like to ask myself or Mrs Fields.

## Forest School

Mrs Fields has been working closely with Harriet from Scotswood Garden and we have been lucky enough to secure places to take a small group of children from each class to the gardens to complete 'Forest School' activities each week. We can only now take pupils from each bubble group each week so this will be on a 4-week rolling programme. We are so grateful to Harriet and the team for enabling us to do this, as we believe that it provides important provision for some of our children.

## We are here...

We may not currently be able to have our parents, carers and families in to school at the moment due to COVID-19 restrictions, however I do want to reiterate to every member of our school community that we are still here if anyone needs us. If anyone has questions (COVID related or otherwise), wants to run something past us, or even if anyone simply needs a listening ear, please don't hesitate to drop us an email or give us a ring and we will do whatever we can to help.

## New Website

In addition to some of the documents which I have signposted our families to in this newsletter, please do also take a look at our brand new website. We believe that it is much easier to navigate than the old one and it has a whole raft of useful information on it for our families. Go and check it out!