

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 3, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after half term, and thank you all for your generous donations to our Harvest Celebration. The two charities supported were extremely grateful for all the goods received.

Term 2 is always an exciting term as we head towards Christmas and we will be busy with many events and activities over the coming weeks (updated Term 2 Dates attached).

I look forward to seeing you all at **Parent Consultation Meetings this week. Class Teacher Letters and Topic Information for Term 2** have been emailed to you last week and provide information on your child's topics and class events.

I am pleased to announce that we have two BA Teaching Students from the University of Greenwich joining Year R and Year 1 this week until March 2020. They will work alongside the Class Teachers and provide an invaluable addition to the staff teams in both classes.

Mrs Hunter (our job share Reception class teacher) will be leaving at the end of this term to start a new role as a full time Reception class teacher at another school. Mrs Taylor will become the full time class teacher from the start of Term 3. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Hunter for her service to the school over the last 9 years and to wish her every success in her new post. As a school we will formally thank Mrs Hunter at the end of term on her last working day; Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

We will be taking part in **Children in Need** (organised by our School Council children) on **Friday 15th November**. Your child can wear something yellow or spotty for a donation of £1.00. We are also taking part in the **national anti-bullying week: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**. Children can wear odd socks during this week in support of the **'Change starts with us'** theme. During the week the children will have lessons and assemblies linked to this important issue.

### **Our school value for NOVEMBER is Excellence.**

We will focus on the importance of *doing your best* in everything you do, with examples in school and out of school of how *hard work* and a *positive attitude* can result in excellence.

### **School Action Plan 2019-2020:**

Please log on to our school website to see our School Action Plan 2019-2020 areas for this year. We are also working our way through the actions linked to the annual survey and I am pleased to report that we are introducing **'Celebration of Learning'** events to increase our communication with you regarding your child's attainment and progress in between the November and March Parent Consultation Meetings. The **Celebration of Learning** events will take place from **4.30-6.00pm** in the second week of **Term 3 and Term 5** for all classes. All parents will be invited to come into school to see their child's work books and learning, and the class teacher will be available should you wish to discuss anything about your child's learning. Parents will also be able to tour the school with their child looking at all our classrooms, displays and learning environments. I will send home more information about this before the end of this term.

**New lunch menu:** Please be aware that a new menu started last week. Every **Tuesday** and **Thursday** children can enjoy a third option of **homemade soup** served with a cheese roll or bread. This is already proving to be popular and I hope that more children will be able to enjoy this option during this term.

**Chill & Chat:** The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2.00–3.00pm in the school hall and will focus on lunchtime and school meals** and key points raised in the school annual survey. Emma Watkins (*Edwards & Ward catering manager*) will attend this meeting to listen to your ideas and to discuss any concerns or issues you may have about school meals. We hope that you will be able to come along. Alternatively you can email your questions to the school office before the session.

**Outdoor education: A MASSIVE THANK YOU to all the volunteers** that are supporting our work on transforming the school grounds for outside learning. We are planning to create a sensory garden on the school field and welcome any further support. I am also delighted to announce that I am in the final stages of organising **Forest School Education** for all classes starting from Term 4 and will provide more details about this later on in the term.

### OPEN DAYS 2019 for new Reception Parents

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 9.30am.** Flyers are available from the school office. Please promote our Open Days in your local community.

**Poppies - support the Armed Forces community, past and present:** Poppies will be on sale at school this week, during break time and lunchtime, for suggested donations of up to £1.50. Items available include zip pulls, snapbands, wristbands, reflectors, paper poppies and enamel lapel pins.

### **Breakfast Club and After School Club:**

Please can I remind all parents that the service needs to be paid for in advance. We can take bookings on the day, however payment should be made straight away.

### **Attendance: Every School Day Counts!**

Please **do not** take your child out of school during term time for **holidays** or **non-urgent appointments**. Not only does it negatively affect their own learning, it also disrupts that of their classmates when extra time has to be spent revisiting activities and topics already completed by the rest of the class.

### **Parking and stopping on The Street**

Please can I remind all parents to drive extra carefully through the village, park safely and legally, and consider the effects of where you choose to park and turn round on others, including local residents. **Please do not stop or drop off children on the ZIG ZAG lines or in the bus stop under any circumstances.** The school gates open at **8.30am** allowing plenty of time to park further up The Street and arrive at school before 8.50am.

**Car sharing:** We encourage you to car share with friends or neighbours as this will also help to alleviate traffic and congestion, as well as saving you money and time!



Thank you to FOMS for their hard work with the *children's film night, pumpkin competition and Halloween disco* – all events have been a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

### Autumn dates 2019

#### **Wreath Making - Adult Event/Evening**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December - 7.00-9.30pm

#### **Winter Festival & Santa's Grotto**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - 12.00-3.00pm

The WINTER FESTIVAL is on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 12.00-3.00pm. Please support our non-uniform day on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December** by bringing in *Tombola items in exchange for wearing own clothes to school*. Any help on the day of the festival itself, however small, is very much appreciated. The more money we raise, the more we are able to invest in the school for the benefit of all our children. Thank you all for your support in helping us make Mereworth a great school with the excellent resources our children deserve!

### EASY FUNDING for Christmas presents:

Please register at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to support the school in raising money every time you shop at a wide variety of stores including AMAZON, JOHN LEWIS, M&S, ARGOS...

Visit the FOMS page of the school website for more information. Thank you.