



Newsletter – 9th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each and every one of you for all of your support, co-operation and kind thoughts since September, and throughout the 18 months of the COVID pandemic.

As a school, we can assure you that everything we do on a daily basis is helping to keep your child/ren safe, whilst maintaining the usual routines and lessons. I feel that this enables the children to maintain a sense of normality which is imperative for their health and well-being which again is so important if they are to be able to continue to progress in their learning.

Again, like last Christmas, we are planning a number of Christmas activities in school over the next couple of weeks, which will hopefully help develop the Christmas spirit. Our KS1 Nativity will be filmed and shared via our school website for you to watch with your family. This year we are planning a short (20-30 mins) Carol Service, outside on 20th December @ 2pm, where the children will sing a range of carols to help to put you in the Christmas spirit. Parents are welcome to attend. (of course, weather dependant).

Once again, thank you for all you do for both your children and Our Lady's school.

Keep safe and take care.

Mrs P McGuffie
Headteacher

Anti-Bullying Week 2021

This year the focus for Anti-Bullying Week was 'One Kind Word'. We considered the importance of being kind to others and to ourselves. The Anti-Bullying Alliance said:

"In a world that can sometimes feel like it's filled with negativity, one kind word can provide a moment of hope. It can be a turning point. It can change someone's perspective. It can change their day. It can change the course of a conversation and break the cycle of bullying. Best of all, one kind word leads to another. Kindness fuels kindness. So from the playground to Parliament, and from our phones to our homes, together, our actions can fire a chain reaction that powers positivity. It starts with one kind word. It starts today."

So we have thought about all the ways we can show kindness in school and at home.



Learning Means the World Curriculum

Reception

In Reception, our topic is 'Under the Sea'. We have been exploring different types of sea creatures and have identified and labelled the parts of a fish. We have also enjoyed reading the book 'The Rainbow Fish', by Marcus Pfister. We discussed the themes of sharing and friendship and used the book as a stimulus for lots of different continuous provision activities, such as designing our own colourful Rainbow Fish, writing about which friends we would share our last shiny scale with and sequencing images to retell the story. In addition, we have explored what Sharks and other sea creatures need to survive in the ocean, whilst developing our writing skills by describing the creatures.

In PE, we have been developing our travelling and balancing skills, whilst also learning to negotiate space successfully during 'Under the Sea' themed games. Moreover, we have enjoyed taking part in 'Under the Sea' dance and yoga sessions. In Reception, we have also used technology to paint our own pictures of fish and, as a class, have researched facts about sea creatures. We are excited to continue our topic and learn more about life under the sea after Christmas.



YEAR 1

Year 1 have been enjoying the topic 'Paddington's Passport'. They have been learning all about Peru and its capital city, Lima, where Paddington is from. The children got to use atlases for the first time and they had to try and find where Peru was on the map. We have been discussing the seven continents and five oceans and the definition of what these are. Well done Year 1 for your excellent Geography skills.



YEAR 2

Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their topic "Never Eat Shredded Wheat" over the past few weeks. We have been busy using maps, atlases and digital maps to identify the world's oceans and continents. We particularly enjoyed trying to identify landmarks without using a key! During the topic, we also used 'Google Earth' to explore different countries, we researched their climate and what food grows there too.



Year 3

Three Giant Steps

Year 3 have really enjoyed their short geography topic as part of our Learning Means the World curriculum. We have learned lots about the 3 countries we have been studying: the UK, France and Canada.



We have studied maps and atlases, created our own 'Tour de France' race around France, learned all about the port of Dover and its famous white cliffs, and taken a whistle stop tour of Montreal, Toronto and Calgary in Canada.

We have studied physical features like mountains, cliffs, rivers and waterfalls and looked at man-made landmarks such as the Notre Dame in Paris, the CN Tower in Toronto and the port of Dover.

We have also compared the 3 countries looking at size, climate, population, culture and language.

YEAR 4

Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the History topic, 'The Saxon King' within our Dimensions curriculum. They have learnt about the inspirational story of Harold Godwinson, the final Anglo-Saxon King of England. A lesson the children particularly enjoyed was when they were put into groups and had to research the different candidates' claim to the throne after Edward the Confessor died. Each group put together a speech where they aimed to convince the Witan Council to choose their claimant. The children had so much fun planning and delivering their speeches and deciding who would be the next King of England.



YEAR 5

In Your Element

Our latest Learning Means the World topic called 'In Your Element', is a thematic unit based around the four elements of earth, air, water and fire with a key focus on Geography.

As well as extending our knowledge of rocks and soils, we have been learning about natural phenomena such as earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and tornados. We created an earthquake survival guide, and enjoyed acting out the journey of magma from the core of a volcano to the earth's crust!

We also developed our knowledge of rivers, canals and mountains, learning about some of the most important physical features of the UK and the wider world. Did you know that our local theatre 'The Brindley' was named after James Brindley who engineered some of the first canals, including the Bridgewater and Trent & Mersey canals which we can still sail on today?



A Human Volcano



Earthquake Survival Guides

YEAR 6

This half term, year 6 have been working on our 'I Have a Dream' topic all about equality. As part of this, we have been learning to get on with one another - showing tolerance. This is one of our core British values and one, I'm glad to say, that the children of Our Lady's show an abundance of. But what better way to test our tolerance of others than some difficult team building activities! Our favourite was to try and cross the yard on milk crates. All the teams worked exceptionally well together and had to show a great deal of tolerance and teamwork. Well done year 6.



Wearing Woolly Tights

If your child wears woolly tights for school, please could we ask that you supply a pair of socks (to leave in school) that they can change into when they do PE. Thank you.



Old underwear for Reception Children

Do you have any spare underwear for children in KS1 that you could donate to school. Unfortunately, the supply we had has not been returned when used and our supplies have depleted.

Items required, socks, vests, underwear.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.



Christmas Dinner Day

Mrs Quayle will be preparing Christmas dinner for the children on Wednesday, 15th December. If your child normally has packed lunch but would like a Christmas dinner then please email the office on admin.olpsprimary@halton.gov.uk or sec.olpsprimary@halton.gov.uk and let them know by Friday, 10th December.

For children in Year 3 and upwards who pay for school dinners, then please log onto Schoolcomms and pay online £2.50. Children will be able to come to school wearing a Christmas jumper also.

CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY

This year, our school Christmas party day will be held on Friday, 17th December. Children will be able to come into school in their party clothes. They will spend the day within their class bubbles taking part in a number of Christmas activities, before having their parties (in their classrooms) in the afternoon.



Mrs Quayle

After **30** years of working as Our Lady's cook, Mrs Quayle will be retiring at Christmas.

I am sure you will all join me, our staff and children in wishing her a very happy, healthy retirement.



One Way System

Could we remind parents/carers that there is an unofficial one way system in operation around the school during drop off and collection times?

When approaching school by car please do so via Ash Lane and vacate the vicinity out through Oakfield Drive.

Can we also ask you to ensure you park up in a safe place and **NOT** across our neighbours' driveways or on the white lines?

Thank you for your co-operation.



Polite reminder - Snack/Dinner Account

Please could we ask that you keep a check on your child(ren's) snack/dinner account and top up accordingly.

As previously mentioned, there has been an addition to the SchoolComms this year and that is a reminder is automatically generated if your account goes into debit.

For the snack account, it will automatically send you a reminder to top up when it goes below £5.00 if it goes over £6.00 you will have to supply a snack for your child as they will not receive snack until it's topped up.

For the dinner account, it will automatically send you a reminder to top up when it goes below £12.50.

Should you require any further information/assistance regarding schoolcomms, please contact the school office.



What is happening Next Half Term?

| Date | Event |
|--|--|
| 9 th December | Flu Vaccine for those children who were absent on 3 rd Nov.  |
| 15 th December | Christmas Dinner day/ Christmas Jumper day  |
| 16 th December | KS1 Nativity (to be filmed and shared with parents)  |
| 17 th December | Christmas Party day – Children to come to school in their party clothes.  |
| 20 th ^t December | Carol Service 2pm (Outside) – the children will need a hat, scarf, gloves and warm coat. Parents are welcome to attend, weather permitting.  |
| 21 st December | School closes at 1.30pm for the Christmas holidays  |
| 5 th January | Children back to School – 8.45am |