



All Saints' Fortnightly Newsletter – 26 November 2021

Vision - Learning hand in hand together with God

Communication

During lockdowns and following covid restrictions, our method of communicating with you has been little and often via ParentPay messages. However, following reflection and feedback, we now feel that a more structured approach will be more effective. Therefore, we are trialling fortnightly newsletters which will hopefully have forthcoming diary dates and events and other information about school. Here we go!

Sharing our Values (Hopeful, Achieving, Nurturing, Developing, Sharing = HANDS)

It was great catching up with many of you last week at the Meet and Greet events and we hope that you can now picture places your child talks about and see the learning in their books. Due to some slight confusion, some of the EYFS Learning Journals were not available, so all EYFS Learning Journals will be coming home this weekend – please return them on Monday 😊.

We had a very successful Open Day with over 100 prospective parents visiting school either during the afternoon or evening. The year 6 children acted as our tour guides and the feedback from the parents was that they were a huge credit to the school, very polite, knowledgeable, confident and enthusiastic.

November is the month in which we support many national charities and the children not only have deep pockets but also big hearts. We have raised £660.50 for Bishop Ivan and the Revival Centre in Matugga, we are awaiting final amount from the Poppy sales and we collected over £630 for Children in Need – a massive thank you. I also believe the school council are sorting out supporting Refugee Action's Christmas present appeal again, a great way of sharing hope and love during the festive time.

Requests from the Office

Please report all pupil absence via the office phone (01943 607852, option 1) **not** via email. Phone messages are picked up first thing each morning, it can take some time to get through the various emails we receive daily.

May we kindly ask that no second-hand uniform is brought in to school at present as we have a large supply and are struggling for storage space. We will let you know when we can accept uniform again.

We will shortly be inviting you to sign up for KS1 and KS2 Milk and Morning Snack for the Spring term (January –April). Please ensure you are aware of the deadline for signing up as we cannot accept any late requests.

Covid Updates

Cases - Following our peak of covid cases prior to half term due to the "Road Map" opening, we are cautiously pleased that we are back down to 1 case a week in school.

Advice - We are still guided by the DfE and PHE and have recently received the promised CO2 monitors for school with the advice that good ventilation, hand washing and catching and binning coughs and sneezes is still the best prevention.

Christmas - With our covid cases low, we are really hopeful that our Christmas productions will be held in school in front of a parent audience. We are very excited at the prospect of you coming into school to support your child, but also be mindful that if cases increase, we may need to cancel at short notice! Please look out for dates, times and tickets for the Reception nativity, KS1 nativity and Year 3&4 carol service. We will need to restrict tickets to 2 per family and unfortunately, siblings will not be able to attend with you.



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School Involvement

Sport - We are part of the Ilkley Grammar School sports league along with the other primary schools in the valley. The IGS Sports League is a combination of coaching and competitive matches across a variety of sports. Currently, the y5 children have the opportunity for hockey coaching and matches and we have both a y5/6 boys and girls football team in the league. From mostly novices, the girls team is performing very well (2nd in the league) and the boys have a great squad mentality.

Music – We currently have 40 children enjoying music lessons in school run by Bradford Music and Arts and Music for Schools and this is the most we have ever known. It is lovely hearing them play during their lessons.

Expansion Update

The external work to create the paths around school are on track to be completed by the Christmas break, it is really starting to take shape. We are also hoping that the prep work to create the hard play area where the portacabin was sited will also commence before the Christmas break. There is much work to be done here to balance the development of the hard play area and also plan for the forest school area around the pond and trees to the rear of the wooded area. The plan submitted does involve some tree felling, but we are planting many more trees to compensate for this and also planting a hedgerow to border the forest school area and the new play surface. The forest school team of staff, children and parents are hard at work planning for a sustainable and enjoyable area.

A Message from Ray Tate, Chair of Governors

I hope you and your family are keeping safe and well during these extremely difficult times of the Covid 19 pandemic.

I am writing to inform you of the recent changes on the Board of Governors at All Saints CE Primary school and to keep you updated on other activities that have been actioned. Following the recommendations of the recent External review of Governance, we have changed the Instrument of Governance which means the number of governors on the board is now reduced to a more effective total of nine. We also had the annual review of the Terms of Reference which can be viewed on our school website. We agreed to continue having Lead Governors to look after various areas of school management which includes, safeguarding, health & safety, inclusion, quality of education, finance and the wellbeing of staff and pupils.

Normally, the chair of governors would be sharing details of our children's progress and attainment against statutory national tests but with all the disruption over the last 12 months, the cancellation of SATs once again and the lack of classroom time for the majority of children, that just isn't feasible. For now, our focus is on getting children back into school safely, getting them back learning and to put in place the recovery activities required to help ensure these children can achieve their absolute best. As a governing body we will strive to support the school staff as much as we possibly can to support these aims.

I want to finish by highlighting just few of the activities we are engaged in on a regular as well as ad-hoc basis.

- *School development plan – the SDP is as an annual plan relating to overall school improvement and linked to the long-term strategic plan. It covers everything from curriculum matters and learning to wellbeing and behaviour.*
- *Monitoring – in normal times visiting school to check on everything from health and safety and safeguarding to lessons and teacher development. We are moving back from remote to this.*



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- *Wellbeing – over the course of the last year it has been increasingly apparent the importance of wellbeing in school for the children but also for staff. I'm pleased that we have been able to appoint a wellbeing governor to monitor this important area.*
- *Premises and facilities – against a challenging financial backdrop, the governing body has a key role to play in ensuring the right investments in premises and facilities are made. I am pleased to say that the school internal extension is now complete and focus is on completing the outside.*
- *Finance – at the root of much of our discussion is finance, or increasingly lack thereof. The school's funding is challenged. Cost structures increase year on year. But at the heart of every decision is ensuring we make the best choice for the children of All Saints school.*

I hope that gives you a flavour of the breadth and depth of the governing body's involvement behind the scenes. Fundamentally, the role of the governing body is a strategic one linked to helping the school to deliver on its ethos, vision and promise to grow our children into happy and respectful, lifelong learners.

Kind regards - Ray Tate

Please remember to look on our website for curriculum and other useful information ☺.

Thank you
Mrs M Robinson

DIARY DATES (Autumn Term)	Date
Year 6 Knife Crime Talk from PC Craig Freeman	30 Nov
2BQ Great Fire of London Workshop	1 Dec
Refugee Action Gifts to School	1 Dec
2M Great Fire of London Workshop	2 Dec
EYFS nativity	7 Dec 2.15pm
EYFS nativity	8 Dec 9.30am
KS1 Nativity	9 Nov 9.30am
KS1 Nativity	10 Dec 2.15pm
Christmas Dinner	13 Dec
Music & Arts Woodwind and Brass Concert	13 Dec
Year 3&4 Carol service rehearsal at All Saints' Church	13 Dec
Year 5&6 Victorian Day - Children dress in Victorian style costumes, take part in a Victorian classroom and complete Victorian craft activities.	15 Dec
Christmas Parties:	
Year 3&4	15 Dec
Year 5&6	16 Dec
Year 1&2	17 Dec
Foundation	17 Dec
KS2 Carol Service at All Saints' Church (children only)	14 Dec
Year 3&4 Carol service at All Saints' Church (parents invited)	16 Dec 6.30pm
Carols with St Margaret's choir in school	17/12/21
School closes for Christmas holidays	17/12/21
School re-opens – 8.50am	04/01/22