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Newsletter: 2

4th November 2016

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the second half of our Autumn Term!

The first half was a very busy one that ended with two wonderful Harvest Festival celebrations. We were very proud of the children's performances.

During the last week of term the whole school took part in Book Week using Anthony Browne's 'Willy's Stories' as a stimulus for art and writing. The children were excited to show parents and their families the outcome at our whole school exhibition this week. It was lovely to see so many of you admiring the quality of our work. Thank you for your very positive comments.

We were particularly impressed with the home learning that was undertaken during half term! Well done everyone for such outstanding contributions – we struggled to find space to display it all at the exhibition! Thank you parents for your support with this. The home learning will be circulated around the school and placed in the class reading corners for everyone to read and enjoy.

Children in Need Day

On Friday 18th November we will be raising money for Children in Need. Please bring a £1 donation to school and wear something dotty!

Free School Meals

Following our recent Parent mail to you, I just wanted to remind you where to check for eligibility for free school meals. Here is a link to the web site:

<https://beta.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>.

This funding enables the school to claim for additional funding for the year to support your children's learning.

Sweets and Treats

I would just like to remind you that we are unable distribute any food or sweets to children brought in from home. There are children in school who have a range of allergies and we have protocols we have to follow to ensure the safety of these children. Thank you for your support with this matter.

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School Car Park

Please do not use the school car park unless you are collecting or dropping off your children from Play Aloud. We are concerned about your children's safety.

School Playground

Thank you for supporting us by asking your children not to ride their scooters or bikes in the school grounds. Please can you ensure children keep off the play equipment before and after school.

Staffing

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Oke will be covering Mrs Andreas' maternity leave in Willow class. She will be starting on Monday to work alongside Mrs Andreas to ensure smooth transition. We look forward to working with her.

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Charter. She will be leaving us next week. I'm sure you will join me in thanking her for her valued contribution to the school. We wish her every success with her new career venture. The school office is 'under construction' at the moment. We will be short staffed in the office for a while; we thank you in advance for your support during this time of transition.

News from Mrs Barley

Parenting courses

Hertfordshire County Council have developed a directory of parenting courses, which is available on the website at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/parentingsupport The parenting directory lists all courses that are available to parents/carers in Hertfordshire and cover a range of topics including: parenting a child with additional needs; healthy relationships healthy baby programme; confident fathers programme; caring dads and understanding teens. You are able to view the courses you are interested in by district, type of course and also see if there are any costs involved. If you are interested in attending one of the parenting courses, speak to Mrs Barley, Inclusion Coordinator at school or contact the course provider directly.

Thank you to the SLPA

Many thanks to the Parents' Association who kindly funded the purchase of a number of Lego sets last half term. These will enable children to take part in some short Lego therapy sessions in school; the benefits of this work may help increase confidence, team building and listening skills, among others.

CELF-5 (Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals) standardisation project

In the summer term, several parents agreed to their children taking part in a research project. The Speech & Language Therapist who conducted the assessments asked us to thank the wonderful children, parents and staff for their participation and time.

As a result of this project, school has received £220 of gift vouchers. School Council will be asked to spend the money wisely to purchase games and equipment for the lunchtime Quiet Club.

Mrs Barley

News from SLPA

We held our SLPA AGM (including Wine and Cheese!) on 6th October, during which we said goodbye to our Chair and Vice Chair, Kerry Haynes and Roz Grennell respectively, who have both stepped down after leading us for 2 years. Thank you to you both for all of your hard work and dedication you will be missed. We voted in our new chair Natalie Gray, and vice chair, Kate Turner and we know that we are in great hands going forwards.

We have also been spending money that we have raised. Last month we paid £100 for Lego therapy which has been helping all children in the school with their social skills. We also paid £500 for the artist Jane Bower to come in to school for book week and spend time with the children which was a fabulous and educational visit.

This year we are planning some amazing events kicking off with Film Night for years 1 - 6 which will be on 18th November, so look out for letters in your children's book bags soon. We can also confirm this years Christmas Fayre with the theme of "Santa's Little Helpers" will be on Saturday 3rd December, more information to follow so watch this space...

As always we welcome any new members, help and support, if you would like to get involved or are interested in finding out more information about what we do you can contact us at our email address: enquiries.slpa@gmail.com. We are a friendly bunch!

SLPA

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy Thomas".

Headteacher