

## Newsletter – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Families,

The nights are drawing in, shops have swapped pumpkins for penguins and there's a hint of wood smoke in the air... it must be November: welcome back to the second half of the autumn term!

Whilst I'm getting to know many of you at the school gates, it was genuinely lovely to meet more of you and welcome you into school for our Parent/Carer Evenings earlier this week. Thank you for making the time to come into school and build these crucial partnerships. Most of you seemed to like the bell to help with timings... see the next item for gathering your views on Parent/carers evenings. If you were unable to attend for any reason do please contact your child's class teacher (via the office) to arrange an appropriate time to catch up.

### Hookstone Chase Community Forum

In response to surveys a few weeks ago, a small group of willing volunteers has agreed on a date to attend the first Hookstone Chase Community Forum meeting: **Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 4.30 - 5pm**. Now a date is set, everyone in the school community is also welcome to attend. The focus of the first meeting will be parents' evenings and school reports.

### Years 3 – 6: Design a Christmas Card Competition

*"My Christmas card competition has been a great success over the last eleven years. I believe there is no better way to spread Christmas cheer than to ask local primary school children to design my card. From Monday 7 November 2022... I will again be holding my 'Create a Christmas e-card for your MP' competition. The competition will be open to all local children between the ages of 7 and 11 years old. Please find enclosed a copy of the competition rules.*

*The winning entry and runners up will be announced by Friday 9 December 2022. The pupil with the winning entry will be awarded a framed copy of the Christmas card."*

*Andrew Jones MP*

Please see attachment for competition entry details. We will collate competition entries at school on **Wednesday November 30<sup>th</sup>** to take up to his constituency office together.

### Medical/dental appointments

We appreciate some of the difficulties involved, but please try to arrange appointments out of school hours where possible. If you do have to arrange them in the school day, please inform the office so we can account for any absences accordingly.

### Mental Health Support - This May Help

"This May Help has been created to support parents and carers with concerns about their child's mental health. The subjects covered on this website have been chosen by families and young people who have gone through their own mental health challenges. What helped them may also help you."

<https://thismayhelp.me/>

## Eco Club

Members of the Eco Club helped out Hookstone and Stonefall Action Group (HASAG) with community planting in Stonefall Park on Tuesday. Children helped to plant dipsacus and clumps of hyacinthoides non-scripta - also known as teasels and bluebells!

We can't wait for the spring when we can check on their progress. See our FB page for photos:

<https://www.facebook.com/HookstoneChasePrimarySchool/>

## Learning Update

I thought it would be interesting to share a snippet of learning after popping into Year 2 today. Ethan, Olivia and Lydia in Willow class were enthusiastically learning about Christianity today:

**Olivia:** We're making stained glass windows by cutting out the different sections.

**Lydia:** The cross is in the middle to remind Christians that Jesus died on the cross.

**Ethan:** Stained glass windows either tell a story or are for decoration – or both. You get them in churches, houses and even in some castles!

## Dates

- November 9<sup>th</sup> (9.10 – 9.40am) – Class assembly: Horse Chestnut
- November 17<sup>th</sup> (9.10 – 9.40am) – Class assembly: Maple
- November 18<sup>th</sup> – individual/sibling photos
- November 24<sup>th</sup> (9.10 – 9.40am) – Class assembly: Oak

## Christmas Events

- December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Choir Concert at Harrogate International Centre
- December 7<sup>th</sup> - 2.15pm - Nativity play for Reception and Year 1
- December 8<sup>th</sup>– 2.15pm - Nativity play for Reception and Year 1
- December 13<sup>th</sup>– 9.30 am – 10.00am - Y2's Christmas Story
- December 15<sup>th</sup>– 2.30pm – 3.00pm - Y2's Christmas Story

Finally, a reminder about safety over the bonfire/firework weekend. Here's one little safety clip to share with your little ones from Pontypandy's best-known (but least successful) fire safety advocate:

[Fireman Sam Being Safe: Fireworks! Safe with Sam: Bonfire Night](#)

Best wishes,

Mr Cooper