



Friday 18th November 2016

Dear Parents / Carers,



HAPPY BIRTHDAY MR HARRISON!

Mr Harrison has a very special birthday tomorrow! The school office had to work very hard to keep him in school long enough to get him into a special assembly. The children were all very excited and shouted "Happy Birthday Mr Harrison" as soon as he entered the hall. Mr Harrison was presented with a card and birthday donations so he can treat himself to something really nice. Mrs Sage and the school kitchen also presented Tim with a card and gift to show their appreciation for all he does. We are very lucky to have Mr Harrison as our Caretaker and are thankful for all he does for the school. Happy Birthday Mr Harrison!



GANGSTA GRANNY SUCCESS

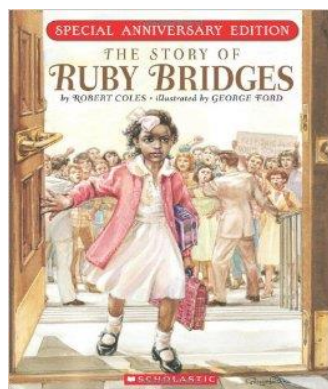
KS2 children, staff and volunteer parents were lucky enough to see *Gangsta Granny* at Derby Theatre yesterday. It was fantastic! KS2 read the book in school and did lots of work related to it in class – it would make a super Christmas present if you have relatives that need any ideas.

David Walliams has also just bought out a new book called *The Midnight Gang* and he has also written lots of other books. Thank you for all the support yesterday from our parent helpers – we could not do these visits with you. ☺



GOVERNOR CORNER

The Governing Body still have 3 vacancies for Co-Opted Governors and we have advertised for these in the Etwell Express from our local community. There is plenty of information on the school web site about what the role involves. It is really rewarding and the school is building an excellent team of governors. If you have a neighbour who may be interested, please encourage them to pop into school to see Mrs East. Meetings this year are on Tuesdays at 5.15pm. A governor newsletter will be sent home this term.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2016

October was Black History month and we marked the occasion by reading a book all about a girl called Ruby Bridges who was one of the first black children to attend a whites only school in America. The children got a lot from reading this book, developing both their English and empathy skills. The children were really interested in Ruby's story and were all very pleased to support Black History month and celebrate the contributions that have been made by African and Caribbean communities. Please pop into school and have a look at our display celebrating Black History Month, which is available to see in our entrance hall. More information can be found on <http://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

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SAFEGUARDING: KEEPING SCHOOL UP-TO-DATE

Please could we remind parents of the importance of keeping the school up-to-date with key information as this has caused us some issues already this term in a range of circumstances:

- *Please could we also remind you that **you are not allowed to take any child, other than your own**, without their parent notifying school directly of this arrangement.*
- *If you see that a KS2 child has not been met by their adult as they normally are, please tell them that they **MUST come back into school to their class teacher** who will care for them whilst their parent(s) are contacted. The children are reminded of this on a regular basis but sometimes they feel they should give their adult a few more minutes. Thank you for safeguarding all the children.*
- *The school office is fielding an increasing number of phone calls towards the end of the school day informing them of changes to home time arrangements. **Phoning last minute changes is for EMERGENCIES only** – trapped in traffic, emergency at home. Please ensure that any changes that are known about are communicated to the class teacher each day – they have a notice board where they record this information in class. A note/letter can also be sent in for all arrangements that are arranged in advance eg changes due to things like going to other children's houses for tea.*
- *All school staff will be doing the annual safeguard training on November 29th. This will cover an update on all types of abuse and the outcomes of serious case reviews, online safety and child sexual exploitation. The school hosts this event for other local schools also.*
- *The Y3/4 door is now kept locked for safeguard reasons – thank you for taking this on board and using the other exits at the bottom of the KS2 corridor.*
- *We have had to really clamp down on the use of the schools main school gates as they were constantly being left wide open by members of the community, delivery vans etc. Thank you for helping us to safeguard your children by closing these gates if you visit during the school day. At the end of the school day, Mr Harrison opens one of the gates at 3.25pm. If you wish to wait in the carpark for your child, then you are welcome to from 3.20pm but please ensure that you close the gate as you enter the school grounds.*



SAFEGUARDING : ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Monday 7th November marked the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week! Each class took part in various anti-bullying themed activities throughout the week and remind them of the strategies we discuss all year round. Each class' English topic was based on a book which had an anti-bullying theme or plot. This allowed for lots of discussions and

writing opportunities around this very important subject. Each class also produced an anti-bullying poster/ banner for their classroom- take a look in each classroom to see if you can spot it! Mrs Millward is also updating the school website so you will also be able to see them all on there!

On Wednesday 9th November we were visited by the brilliant *Firehorse Productions* with their latest play "Sticks and Stones". The play followed the lives of 3 people as it took us back in time to see what they were like as teenagers. The interactive show explored many different types of bullying including, online, verbal and physical. We would like to thank the PTFA for funding this show for the





entire school to enjoy! Please look at the information on the school web site – this is updated on a regular basis.

KS1 - NSPCC PANTS!

This half term we have been talking about the PANTS / Underwear rule! Although it has a funny name, the message is very simple, clear and important. We want our children to be as safe as possible and so we believe it to be extremely important to teach these rules at a young age. KS1 have been learning all about Pantosaurus- a fantastically energetic (and catchy) song all about the PANTS rule created by the NSPCC. If you have not seen this resource then please do search the NPSCC website and have a look! The message is very simple:



P = Privates are private

A= Always remember your body belongs to you

N= No means No!

T = Talk about secrets that upset you

S= Speak up, someone can help!

Children across the school went on to complete various pieces of work for our big PANTS display board which currently sits proudly in our hall! Please do come and take a look! Information about the NSPCC will also be uploaded onto the school web site.

KS2 UNDERWEAR RULE AND SHARE AWARE CAMPAIGN

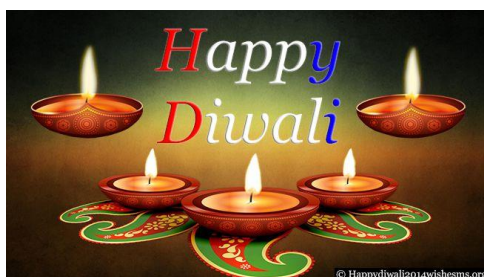
Pants day was on Thursday 10th November. This is an awareness campaign which is run by the NSPCC to educate children on their right to be in charge of their own bodies. The children learned some very important facts and information from PANTS day as it served as a reminder that their body is their own and that saying “No” is OK. The underwear rule is promoted by Pantosaurus, a friendly dinosaur who shared advice with the children. We loved singing his song! All the information shared with the children can be found at www.nspcc.org.uk.



In addition to the Underpants Rule, ‘Share aware’ advice regarding the safe use of technology was discussed and the children had the opportunity to further learn about how to keep safe online. This campaign has been promoted previously and Information and further advice is also available on the NSPCC website. Useful advice about parental controls is also available here. Whilst watching Lucy and the boy, the children discussed the risk of strangers online and the worries that they have around this issue.

Thank you to Mrs Millward for organising this exciting and informative day for us.

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KS2 DIWALI AND WORKSHOP

The festival of light saw children across KS2 celebrate with a creative workshop during which the children in KS2 learned some special dance moves. Each class learnt a short, and very energetic routine. In other lessons we also learned about Diwali, and each class did a different activity to help us celebrate it. Thank you to Mrs Dhillon for organising these workshops.

SPORTS ROUND UP

Girls football :

Apologies from Miss Marriott! She inadvertently missed out thanking Ellie for all her hard work in the football games in September. Well done Ellie – you contributed really well to the team effort 😊

NETBALL

Years 4, 5 and 6 have been working hard every week at netball practise and it is great to see all the girls developing their skills. Our first big match is on Friday 18th November. Both teams will be playing Hilton's teams. It is sure to be a good match! Results will be posted on the school website. Thank you to Miss Cox for all her hard work encouraging our netballers.



DODGEBALL

Unfortunately Mrs Dawson had to cancel our dodgeball competition as we did not have enough players for the team. We are hoping that children will get the chance to participate in other competitions during the rest of this year.

BASKETBALL

On Tuesday 22nd November a team of year 6 children will be participating in a basketball competition at Etwall Leisure Centre. We wish them lots of luck. If anyone would like to go and watch, the competition starts at 4:00pm. Please note any children watching must be accompanied by an adult. We wish the team all the best and our thanks to Mrs Millward for organising this event for the children.



YEAR 5&6 RESIDENTIAL TO HOLLOWFORD, CASTLETON

The Y5/6 residential during the last week of term was a great success! The children had a fabulous time, enjoying activities such as abseiling, rock scrambling, raft building, bush craft, high ropes climbing and much more. It was a fabulous opportunity for the children to experience new and exciting things and to grow in confidence, and also to bond with their peers. The staff who accompanied the children on the residential were so impressed with the children's fearless and positive attitude to all that we did, and at what a credit the children were to the school. We

hope you enjoyed the daily updates on the website throughout the children's exciting week (even if some of the pictures were upside down)! A huge thank you to Miss Jacobs, Miss King and Mrs Hall who agreed to accompany the teachers on the trip - without their selfless dedication it wouldn't be



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possible to go! A huge thanks to all the teachers who accompanied the children also and to Miss Warburton and Mrs Dhillon for their hours of planning and preparation for this superb visit.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT 2016-17:

Parent questionnaire feedback: Thank you to the 118 families that returned the questionnaire. All feedback is greatly appreciated and allows us to add it to staff, governor and children's views around key issues. The summary of this will be put onto the school web site over the weekend, so please have a look. The main points to emerge were around homework and information about children's progress. These are areas that are being further discussed by staff

and governors in order to plan improvements. These will be shared with you in due course.

Homework : This has been a hot topic for discussion in school before and following the parent questionnaire, with mixed views from all. This is an area where it is hard to find a balance so that everyone is happy. Miss Dixey has conducted some pupil interviews to seek the views of a cross section of the children, together with discussions with staff and also governors. The Senior Leadership Team with Miss Dixey are collating all views and will be discussing the future homework policy with a group of parents next week.

Information about the progress of your child: We are looking at what we can do to further improve this area and would *appreciate your suggestions as to what would be helpful to you.* Currently we have 3 formal times when you can meet with your child's teacher – Autumn, Spring and Summer. We also send out an annual school report. We also hold separate meetings with parents to review Individual Education plans and support a number of families in Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings with other agencies. We endeavour to use the morning reading opportunities to speak to parents informally and encourage all parents/carers to speak to their child's class teacher at any time if they have concerns about their child. We are looking towards other schools also to see what good practice we can bring back into our school. ***Please let Miss Dixey or Mr Ormsiton know if you have any suggestions as to how we can improve this communication further. Thank you.***

Behaviour Policy: Parents have been invited to give us feedback on the schools behaviour policy as this is currently being reviewed. Please speak to either Miss Dixey or Mr Ormiston directly or email your feedback and comments to enquiries@etwall.derbyshire.sch.uk by Friday 25th November. Thank you



COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

To help with communications and the busy lives we all lead, the school school office will be publishing a 'weekly news sheet' starting week beginning 28th November 2016. This will be a single sided sheet which will tell you briefly what will be happening the following week and also at the bottom will let you know what letters have been sent out that week.

This will be put together ready for each Friday and will be emailed out only. A copy will be put on the home page of the school website under the latest news

section. If you don't already receive emails and would like to join then please ask the school office for a form to complete.





SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE



The School Council have been very busy recently; the highlight of the last meeting being the organising of charitable events throughout the year. Along with our chosen charity for the year – The Roald Dahl Children's Charity, we will also be supporting Macmillan (for whom we raised £267 at the recent coffee morning), Children in Need and Comic Relief. Watch this space for our calendar of events which we will put together soon. We also discussed what we think of homework and how well we think Circle Time is working.

Dates: please put up somewhere at home or in your diary.

PLEASE REFER TO THE SCHOOL WEB SITE CALENDAR – for key dates for 2016-17

INSET Days for 2016-17 : The following days have been set for 2016-17. Children **will not** be in school on these further 3 days.

Tuesday 3rd January 2017, Monday 5th June 2017 and Monday 10th July 2017

NOVEMBER 2016

Mon 21st EYFS hearing tests
 Tues 22nd Y5/6 Mini Basketball at JPS
 Fri 25th Roald Dahl 100th Birthday team even in school
 Mon 28th PTFA Winter disco's
 Tues 29th Annual Safeguard training for all staff 4-6pm

DECEMBER 2016

Fri 2nd PTFA Christmas jumper theme day – items for Christmas hamper please
 Fri 2nd Rev. Greaves in school for assembly
 Mon 5th 2.30pm KS1 Nativity for families
 Tues 6th 2.30pm KS1 Nativity for families
 Wed 7th 2.45pm EYFS Nativity for families
 Fri 9th Secret Santa Day – PTFA
 Mon 12th Christmas Hamper Day for the children
 Wed 14th 1.45/2pm and 6pm KS2 Christmas celebrations (afternoon time to be confirmed)
 Thurs 15th Children's Christmas lunch
 Thurs 15th Rev. Fiona KS1 Christmas assembly
 Fri 16th EYFS/ KS1 Christmas Party afternoon
 Mon 19th Y3/4 Christmas Party afternoon
 Tues 20th Y5/6 Christmas Party afternoon

JANUARY 2017

Tues 3rd School Closure day (INSET)
 Wed 4th School reopens for all staff and pupils.

Any changes in dates will be advertised well in advance and a text sent out.

WANT US TO EMAIL LETTERS TO YOU?



Please pop into the school office and let us know your email address – all letters can then be emailed to you. This is more environmentally friendly for the school and it won't end up on the corridor floor! All letters are also put on the school web site, so please check there too. If you type the school name into a search engine it will come up for you. It is always on the top of school letters too.