



Christmas is just around the corner!

Another busy month has passed! There has been lots going on here at TSM and I think everyone is ready for a half term break. Someone mentioned on the radio this morning that today is the first day for Christmas Shopping which means it won't be long before we'll be in the process of preparing our School Nativity and making products ready to be sold on the night of the Christmas Fete.

Yesterday was a great day! An excellent Spelling Bee Final, an interesting R.E. afternoon and then to top it all off, a TSM win at the local area Parlauf Relay competition!

Mr Stock

Head teacher

Walking Bus

The parking outside school (particularly at the end of day) still remains an issue. The Farm Shop are still expressing concerns about people using their car park at 3:30 whilst parents walk down to the school and over the last few weeks, I've seen a number of angry drivers trying to pull out of their space and some near misses. Please take extra care outside the school, whether you are parked and pulling away or if you are pulling in.

Governor, Graeme Boulding, will return after half term to patrol outside the school. The children have produced a leaflet which they have asked to be handed to any driver who is considered to be carrying out a dangerous manoeuvre e.g. three point turn.

In order to attempt to try and reduce the congestion and the amount of cars outside school, I thought it might be useful to implement a walking bus idea. A walking bus, is a group of children led by an adult, escorted to a particular place. I am in the early days of thinking about this but the plan would be for an adult to round up a group of children and walk them over the bridge into Trimley St Martin, where parents of the children can then be collect them. This might reduce the amount of parents needing to drive from Trimley St Martin to the school and in turn reduce the amount of cars outside school. If this was to be successful, then we could run something similar walking in the other direction towards Kirton.

I'm not sure I have the man power in school to run this using school staff but feel that if we ran a slightly less formal option where parents group together to operate this, it might be an option? Similar to something they run on some West London roads – a car share. Where a group of people who work in the same area share a car ride with each other.

Parking outside schools has become an increasing problem for all schools. Having spoken to the other Head teachers in the area, our situation is nowhere near as problematic as theirs, as their schools are in highly built up residential areas and they have more children. But I am trying to come up with some sort of solution to help lessen the parking issue outside school.

Have a think about it! We'll be discussing this at the next Parent Forum meeting in November.

General Information

Spelling Bee

It was like marmite! Some children loved it and some children were not quite as excited. However, after a week of exciting finals, children are definitely getting a 'buzz' about spelling. The performance of the children in the finals was exceptional but the amount of spellings the children learnt over the two week period was amazing! These exciting new words can be added to their written work to help improve the quality of the children's writing. Even those children who managed to hold to five spellings, it's five spellings they didn't know before and 5 words that they can now put into their writing.

Thank you to the parents and the governors who attended the finals, it was great for the pupils to see you there!

Year 6 Winner – Robbie

Year 5 Winner – Thalia

Year 4 Winner – Harvey

Year 3 Winner – James

Year 2 Winner(s) – Ted & Josh

Year 1 Winner - Stanley

ULTIMATE SPELLING BEE WINNER – Josh (Y1)

Mrs Thompson

Year 2 parents have already been informed about Mrs Thompson's pregnancy, however, I thought it would be nice to let you all know. The baby is due early March. Mrs Wilson will return from maternity leave in February and Mrs Foote and Mrs Wilson will work together with the class until the end of the year.

School Office

Thank you for your patience with us over the last few weeks when visiting the school office. The office has been covered by myself, Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Calver as Mrs Simpson has been off on compassionate leave. Mrs Simpson's husband has been seriously ill and she has been spending time with him taking care of him during his recovery. Mrs Simpson returned to school on Monday this week and will gradually increase her hours back to full time over the next couple of weeks.

5x Reading at home

Every time your child reads at home five times in one week they receive a raffle ticket which is entered in a prize draw where children can win books to keep! The more raffle tickets they have, they more likely they are to win a prize.

Changes to after school club

Following feedback for regular users of the after school club there have been a few changes made to the booking process.

SHORT NOTICE BOOKING [IDEAL FOR 1 OFF EVENTS ETC]

YOU CAN NOW BOOK CHILDREN INTO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB WITH ONLY 1 DAYS NOTICE.

CONTACT AFTER SCHOOL CLUB DIRECT ON : 07763816224 TO BOOK THE SESSION YOU REQUIRE.

PAYMENT GIVEN ON COLLECTION OF CHILD
BOOKING SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

LONG TERM BOOKING

[IDEAL FOR WORKING PARENTS]

IF YOU REQUIRE REGULAR DAYS OR KNOW WHICH SESSIONS YOU REQUIRE. THESE CAN BE BOOKED AND PAID IN ADVANCE WHICH GUARANTEES THAT YOU HAVE A SPACE FOR YOU NEED IT.

R.E. Curriculum Afternoon

During yesterday's RE curriculum afternoon each class found out about a particular celebration connected to the religions the children are currently studying in class. The children learnt about a celebration, the traditions surrounding that celebration, the purpose and in some cases they reenacted parts of the celebration to experience it first hand. As promised I did wear my Hindu outfit and had a great time teaching the Reception Class some super Bhangra dancing ready for Diwali.

The whole purpose of the afternoon was to bring R.E. to life. Hopefully children will remember the activities they completed today in years to come as well as developing a greater understanding of the religions in the world in which they live. The children learnt about the following celebrations.

YEAR R – Hinduism 'Divali'

YEAR 1 – Judaism 'Passover'

YEAR 2 – Christianity 'Baptism'

YEAR 3 – Christianity 'Weddings'

YEAR 4 – Christianity 'Holy Communion'

YEAR 5 – Christianity 'Christmas' (Comparing varying traditions around the world)

YEAR 6 – Buddhism 'Vesak'

The event was attended by the Vice Chair of Governors, Lorna Adamson, and the feedback I received from both Lorna and the parents in the playground afterwards was very positive indeed.

These curriculum afternoons take a lot of extra preparation and planning and the teachers spend a lot of time creating resources and setting up the rooms ready for parents to come in and work alongside the children. The super positive comments received along with seeing the enjoyment had by children makes the time and effort all worthwhile.

I spoke to a few parents during the event about things we could improve on next time and so we have some tweaks that we can make to the next curriculum afternoon.

Parlauf Winners

Just to finish off what had already been an excellent afternoon... a group of children from Year 3,4,5 and 6 competed in the Parlauf Relays competition at Langer Primary Academy after school yesterday and did us proud!

This event is totally about the WHOLE team, every child contributed to the overall results. It was a tough event but what impressed me most was the determination and commitment shown through the entire event by our children. There were also a few trips and a few mishaps but the children picked themselves up and continued to work hard for their team.

Before the results, I had said to the children that I was so impressed with their attitude and whatever the result we should be proud of ourselves, considering we were the second smallest school in the competition and we were a few children short due to illness.

However, when the results were announced... we were the winners! It was a close competition and Kingsfleet and Causton weren't far behind us but we were very pleased to lift the trophy.

Langer were great hosts and the event ran very smoothly! We now need to get our name on that trophy!

Well done to all who ran (for what felt like a lifetime!) and represented their school superbly and thank you to the parents and carers helped ferry the children from school to the venue. Myself and Mrs Matthews were very proud indeed.

Job well done!

Behaviour & Safety

E Safety Meeting: Yr5 & 6 parents

Thank you to those of you who attended the Year 5 / 6 e-safety meeting. If you were unable to attend copies of the notes were sent out but there is more information on our website in our e safety section.

Why are we pushing E-Safety so much?

You may have read recently in the paper regarding issues connected with SNAPCHAT, Instagram and Facebook. Children are very technology savvy and can find their way round a tablet computer better than any adult probably could. There are apps and programs that children have access to that parents may not fully understand or have even heard of. Children certainly do not understand the implications and issues with some of these apps.

It was only the other day in assembly when a child explained that they knew they were talking to their friend online through xbox live because there was a photograph of their friend on the screen. We did then need to discuss that just having a photo doesn't necessarily mean it is their friend that they are talking to and perhaps we need to check when we are in school that 'No1-Betty14' is actually Betty's user name.

We also discovered through out questionnaire with the children that a number of children use Instagram and SnapChat. We've talked about needing to be careful about sharing photos using these apps. We said that online photos are bit like toothpaste. Once squeezed, you cannot get toothpaste back into the tube. The same can be said for online photos; although you may delete the photo of you poking fun at a child in your class – it is already out there in the big wide world.

We do need to be careful that we don't over do it when it comes to e-safety. Removing the ipad and banning all computer may reduce the potential risks – it wont protect your child in the long term. We need to provide children with the skills and educate them to make the right choices with regards to being safe online. If we take too much control over their computer use we are not allowing them to develop the understanding and the helping them to recognising the dangers that exist.

Do please look at the pages on the website, there is some valuable information on there.

Cycling to school

I am aware that a number of you cycle to school with your children and so this is just a reminder to all parents to be ultra vigilant.

Cyclists

- As the nights start to get darker please remember to wear hi visibility clothing
- Be mindful of the fact that Parents at the school in cars will be much more vigilant than the lorries which come charging along these roads.

Drivers

- Please take care when overtaking children and parents on bikes when in the car.

If plans for pick up change...

If the plans for pick up after school change please let us know as soon as possible.

Please also inform us if they were booked in to after school club or were going to Mr Child's sports clubs.

This means we can get messages to the class teachers and the people who are running the clubs before the end of the school day.

Dates, Reminders and %'s

Mon 27th Oct – 31st Oct HALF TERM

Autumn 2

Mon 3 rd Nov	Autumn Term 2 – School Starts	
Wed 5 th Nov	Parents Evening	15:30 – 17:30
Thu 6 th Nov	Parents Evening	15:30 – 19:30
Tues 11 th Nov	Parent Forum	14:30 – 15:30
Tue 2 nd Dec	School Association Annual General Meeting	
Thu 4 th Dec	School Association Christmas Disco times tbc	
Thu 11 th Dec	Christmas Market (Pupils buy presents for family members from School Association during the morning. 09:00 – 12:00)	
Thu 11 th Dec	Nativity (Yr R,1,2)	14:30 – 15:30
Fri 12 th Dec	Nativity (Yr R,1,2)	14:30 – 15:30
Fri 12 th Dec	Christmas Market (Pupils buy presents for family members from School Association during the morning. 09:00 – 12:00)	
Tue 16 th Dec	D&T/Maths Afternoon – Preparing products to sell at the Christmas Fete 14:00 – 15:30	
Wed 17 th Dec	Christmas Parties	13:30 – 15:30
Thu 18 th Dec	Christmas Fete	15:00 – 16:30
Fri 19 th Dec	Last day of Autumn Term	

Spring Term 1

Tue 6th Jan School Starts

Key Events in November

Parents Evening

First week back

An opportunity to meet and discuss your child with the class teacher. Your child's books will be available for you to look at and other samples of their work. Any concerns / issues can be raised during the meeting along with any things that you have been impressed with or really happy with this year. Do please make sure you make an appointment. If you cannot attend on the two days, please make an alternative time to see your class teacher. Often the parents we REALLY do need to talk to, are the ones that don't turn up to parents evening.

Attendance %

Sept 14	96%
Oct 14	96%

Reading 5x

Oct	87%
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Maths Homework

October	93%
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Important Notices

PEANUTS!

Please do not put peanuts in your child's packed lunch or bars/snacks which contain nuts. INCLUDING PEANUT BUTTER!
Some children are allergic to nuts in school, therefore, there is a ban on any type of nuts in school.

Please read the NEWS BLOG for more up-to-date information

Don't forget to add names to school clothing!

Please check your child's bags for letters coming home!

PEANUTS!