

BRETHERTON ENDOWED C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

*Learning together, growing together, achieving together, caring together
within our Christian family.*



7th November 2016

Dear Parents, Pupils & Friends,



I hope that you had a great fun and relaxing Half term break- the weather was really kind to us so I do hope that some of you managed to get out and about. Bonfire night was a clear night and many local bonfire and firework events were well attended. I hope that you enjoyed it if you managed to go to one.

This term is sure to be a busy one- full of key events, such as Remembrance Day, Friendship week and Advent as we lead up to Christmas. Our Class 1 and 2 children will be rehearsing for their production. 'Lights, Camel, Action!' which is sure to be fantastic. I've only heard snippets of the music and it's set to be a treat! The Ethos group will be busy as they prepare and lead worship and the school council will be organising some 'charity' activities Watch this space. Our hard working PTFA are holding their AGM and looking to plan for our hugely successful Christmas fair and bingo events. Everyone's help and input is welcome and appreciated and so hope to see you there. We are extremely grateful for the hard work of everyone involved in the PTFA as without your support and your generosity, we wouldn't be able to buy many important items for school. Plans this year are for enhanced WIFI in school, new playground markings, transport for class trips and a whole school trip, enrichment opportunities such as 'Young Voices' Choir and many more. Thanks again.....parents, teachers and friends of Bretherton...what a great team!

Dates for Your Diary

November

Monday 7 th	School reopens
Tuesday 8 th	PTFA AGM 6.30-8.00pm - discussing Christmas fair after AGM
Friday 11 th	Film Show - Bridge of Spies Cert PG £4.00, doors open 7.00pm
Tuesday 15 th	Bishop Rawstorne Academy - online safety session (year 6)
Friday 18 th	Non-uniform day for Christmas Fair 2.45pm Friendship Week Worship & Celebration - all parents welcome
Thursday 24 th	Christmas Fair No pre-school

After School Clubs

Mondays	Zumba 7.30-8.30pm
Tuesdays	Tennis 3.15-4.30
	Spanish Club 3.20-4.20
	Art Club 3.15-4.30pm
	Adult Art Class 7.00-9.00pm

Extra Curriculum Activities (Second Half of Autumn Term)

Monday

School Council	Lunchtime	
Football Club	3.15-4.30	Y4, 5 & 6

Games Club	3.15-4.15	Y1 & 2
Sewing Club	3.15-4.30	Y6
<u>Tuesday</u>		
Young Voices	Lunchtime	Y5 & 6
Ethos Group	Lunchtime	
Spanish Club	3:20-4:20	All Years
Tennis	3:30-4:30	All Years

Wednesday

NO ROUNDERS CLUB THIS HALF TERM

Friday

Maths Club	Lunchtime	Y2 & 3
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Parental Questionnaires

Thank you so much for the high number of Parental Questionnaires received- your feedback and comments are very important to us as we really do value your thoughts. I will send an outline of the positive and development points in the next couple of weeks as the Local Authority analysis will only be available next year.

One of the comments was a desire to have advance notice of events so that parents/ relatives could be invited. So I have looked at key events in this term and have diarised as follows:

10th November at 9.05 Remembrance worship in school led by worship group parents invited

12th November - 10.15am Remembrance Day Parade in Bretherton

Friday 18th November 2.40 worship in school to celebrate work in Friendship week, all classes to present their learning and parents warmly invited

12th December 2.00 dress rehearsal Class 1/2 community invited

14th December 2.00 performance Class 1/2 parents invited

15th December 6.00 performance Class 1/2 parents invited

16th December 2016: community carols - details to follow. Ethos group to lead.

21st December 9.30 in St Johns Church and in the afternoon a Christmas 'sing along' in school.

An outline for next year is as follows:

2nd February 2017 9.05 Class 3 worship in school – parents invited

8th March 2017 9.05 Class 2 worship in school – parents invited

24th March 2017 – Mothers day afternoon tea in school, lead by PTFA

29th March 2017 Easter experience in church involving whole school and parents , lead by Ethos Group

3rd May 2017 –9.05 Class 1 worship in school – parents invited

16th June 2017 – 7.30-8.30 Fathers Day breakfast in the school hall run by PTFA

12th July 2017 – All day prayer event – rotation of activities involving pupils, parents, community invites and faith leaders and hopefully representatives from the diocese.

21st July 2017 9.30 – leavers assembly in church

There will definitely be more but I will let you know, as soon as possible, once the dates have been organised. I hope this helps.

Next year, I hope to produce a calendar both printed and online which will detail key events throughout the year so you can participate as much as possible in school events.

School Office

Last term, sadly, Jane left her position in the school office. We would like to thank you for all your kind words and messages as she begins to enjoy her long weekends. We are looking to appoint a new member of staff for the office in the next couple of weeks, so for the next 2 weeks, Mrs Carlyon has kindly agreed to work Monday and Friday mornings extra and Mr Tommy Wilson the afternoons. If for any reason, the office is unmanned, we will text message you to keep you informed but be assured that the answer phone will be checked each hour. Remember if you need to speak to 'The Ark' you can contact the manager Natalie **07584 132991** to book or cancel places.

Special Mention

Every fortnight on Wednesdays, we are fortunate to have a wonderful friend to Bretherton come in to lead our Worship. John Brian Whaite (Brian) is a member of Longton Community Church and through coming into school, teaches children about the Bible and Jesus' teachings. His worships are thoroughly entertaining and inspirational. Children engage in his stories and are always willing participants in his sessions. We are delighted to share the great news that Brian was nominated and was awarded The British Empire Medal for service to the community which is fantastic recognition for the hard work and commitment he has to others. He was invited to receive it at Lancaster Castle and next year will attend a Buckingham Palace tea party. He explained to our children that he felt his hard work was a calling from God and that he didn't expect recognition because he felt it was the right thing to do. However, all of us at school are thrilled and delighted for Brian and his family.

Remembrance Day

Our Ethos team will be hosting their very first worship at 9.05 on Thursday for Remembrance Day. Please note it is being held on Thursday and NOT Friday as the hall wouldn't be free due to our Toddler session.

Within this worship, they will look at the reasons for Remembrance, consider conflicts past and present and ask children to share with you their dreams for future peace. They have worked incredibly hard to create their own presentation, prayers and have chosen the songs and I am sure that they will present such an important message with clarity and respect. We would love you to come and share this with us.

We would also like to invite you to Bretherton's Remembrance Day walk on Sunday from St. John's Church at 10.15am. We will be placing our Poppies on the Memorial and it would be great if you could all come along.

Friendship Week

For a whole week, week commencing 14th - 18th November, we will be enriching our curriculum by holding a 'Friendship week'. This will be a great week for staff and pupils as we really unpick what it means to be a good friend. We will be looking at how to be a good friend, what to do when friendship breaks down and the tools to resolve problems. We are welcoming many visitors in school over the week as we look at how team work, emotions and problem solving can help build, maintain and sustain relationships. If you feel you can help us in that week in any way, we would love to welcome you in school, please give me a ring. We would also like to invite you into school on Friday 18th November 2016 at 2.40 as each class will share with you their week long learning. It's sure to be a great end to a great week. Come along and join us.

Our Value this term

This half term our focus value is 'Generosity' and then will lead into 'Advent' for Christmas preparations. We will be looking at generosity of thoughts, actions, time and spirit. We are fortunate to have a special worship lead by Mr Neville Norcross on Monday 28th November 2016.

Cash payments

It is very important to us that we provide an excellent service and following a review of how payments are sent into school e.g dinner money, milk, toast, trips etc. we would like to inform you of our revised procedures for dealing with cash in the school office:

1. Any payments sent into school must be in an envelope marked with the child's name, class, how much is inside and what it is for.
2. There should be a separate envelope for each payment e.g. £11 in one for dinner money, £8.60 in another for toast. If paying for more than one child then these can be added together in one envelope for each payment. It is requested that the correct money should be in each envelope.
3. All payments should be sent in with the child to be put in the register box at registration to then be forwarded to the school office.

4. Once monies have been received in the office, a receipt will be issued via text message. Texts for receipt of dinner money will be sent out on a Friday only as this is the day that dinner money is dealt with.

5. School cannot be held responsible for payments made direct to organisations e.g. photograph orders whereby your payment is put in a sealed envelope to be opened by the organisation not the school office.

We really appreciate your co-operation and support in implementing this and are confident that it will benefit both school and our families. We are looking into offering an alternative cashless system also so in the future you may be able to pay direct to school.

Golden Time

After talking to the children and staff about Golden time, we have decided to review what it should be like in the future. Golden Time is designed as a celebration of children's success. Children usually earn their Golden Time by working hard and keeping the school rules and it is a special time for everyone to look forward to. Children who have worked hard all week are rewarded with time where they can enjoy a variety of different fun and exciting activities and usually children from different classes come together for it.

While we find out from children what they would enjoy and like to do and discuss the options through our parent forums, we would like to tweak it starting this term. Our Golden time will stay on Friday from 2.30-3.00 and will have a number of great clubs which will be planned and provided by staff. We are sure that our children will enjoy sharing their skills with each other and they have already said that they love being with children from other classes. Staff can't wait as they really enjoy working with pupils who are not in their class and the clubs are set to be great fun. While we design our new Golden Time, we will all work hard to ensure Golden Time is just as enjoyable for everyone!

End of Day Procedures

It is really important to us that your children are safe and that at the end of the school day, we can ensure that all children are handed over to their parents or parent's representative. With this in mind, our teachers would like to accompany the children out to the playground at 3.15 (except class 1 who will continue to be released to their parents at the 'porch' door). It will be a great opportunity for parents and their child's class teacher to have a chat if appropriate and will also ensure a smooth transition as all pupils will come out from the same door and be available in the same area. No children will leave school from the front door except when a club ends e.g. football, netball, cooking etc. after school has finished. If you would like your child to walk home regularly on their own, please send a letter into school or if only occasionally a note on those days to their teacher. If we could ask you to help us by waiting inside the playground near the main road, we can be sure that the end of the day goes smoothly. Thank you, I am sure that you understand that your child's safety is paramount and this will help us with this. If you have any questions, I would be more than happy to answer them.

Rainy Mornings

As we are approaching winter and the weather will become more inclement, we wanted to make coming into school easier for you on rainy days. If it is significantly raining before school, at 8.45 the teacher on duty will stand at the gate on the playground and direct your child into their classroom through their classroom door around the back of school. This will mean that you can say your goodbyes at the playground gate, know they are safely in the building when you continue with your day. This will also mean that the school reception area will be clear and office staff available for your enquiries. I'm sure this will be needed more and more this term so again, if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to ask.

Parent Forum Invitation

Attached to this newsletter is an invitation to become a part of the school's Parent Forum. The Parent Forum is an excellent way for you to put forward your views about how things are going at school in a relaxed and informal way which will help us find ways to improve. It will meet five times throughout the year and each time we will have a discussion point e.g. homework, parents evening, safeguarding, trips etc. but will also look at any other issues raised by parents. We are looking for 2 representatives from each year group eg. 2 from reception class, year 1, year 2 etc. I really welcome your involvement and would ask that if you are able to take part, to complete the form and return to school before 25th November.

The joke this week has come from Charlie Pearson :

What is the difference between a camera and a sock?

One takes photos the other one takes five toes!!

Thanks for the increasing number of jokes that are heading for my door. They are great ...so hard to decide which one to choose each week.

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