Friday 26th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

Our children have been working incredibly hard this term and next week teachers will be using a range of assessment activities to assess their progress.

We have been using a stepped approach to easing some of our Covid restrictions. It has been great to see that our children have been coming to key stage assemblies once again and been able to choose their own lunches to eat in the hall. With careful controls in place, we have now also been able to open all the areas of our playground to give children more variety of play experiences at lunchtime break. This stepped approach has successfully limited the numbers of covid cases in the school and prevented any further outbreaks so far. We will continue to closely monitor the impact of any changes we make.

As the Christmas period is approaching us rapidly, I wanted to let you know about some of the exciting things that we are planning, as well as updating you on some of the events that have been happening in school.

**OSSA**

Our first fundraiser will be a Christmas Pop Up Shop event for our children. Each child will be able to make a donation so that they can choose a gift that they would like to give to a member of their family. This has always been a very popular activity with our children and really gets them into the Christmas spirit. The OSSA team will be sending out more details in due course. Children will be asked to wear their Christmas Jumpers on Friday 10th December and we ask for a donation that will be split between OSSA and Save the Children. OSSA have also launched the Christmas Big Raffle, tickets can be purchased through this link [https://www.bigptaraffle.co.uk/cause-data/0ba57b50-c7a9-4b4d-b775-a525333fbe96//leaflets/f4707be8-48c2-434f-aa56-8e7b64115802/the\_big\_pta\_christmas\_raffle-english%20-%20thumb.jpg?updated=637729109177370000](https://www.bigptaraffle.co.uk/cause-data/0ba57b50-c7a9-4b4d-b775-a525333fbe96/leaflets/f4707be8-48c2-434f-aa56-8e7b64115802/the_big_pta_christmas_raffle-english%20-%20thumb.jpg?updated=637729109177370000)

If you are able to join OSSA at their virtual AGM meeting, they would really appreciate your support. Please use the email below to request a link to the zoom meeting which will be held on Thursday 2nd December at 6.30pm. OSSA would also be very interested to know if you are able to support them with future fund-raising events.

*ossa@oldstratford.northants.sch.uk*

**Christmas Appeal**

At Christmas we like to think about helping people in our wider community who may need support. This year we have chosen to support a national charity called The Hygiene Bank which has a base in Old Stratford. They provide basic, essential personal and household hygiene products to families and individuals who cannot afford them. Their Christmas appeal is called ‘It’s in the Bag’ and The Hygiene Bank is asking people to donate a bag filled with essential toiletry products along with a luxury item or two. In December, the bags will be distributed to the local Community Partners in time for Christmas.

If you would like to support this appeal please bring your bag of items to school by Friday 10th December. We are always amazed by the generosity of our school community and thank you in advance for the support that you give to projects like this.

**Nut and Peanut Allergy**

Around school there are now new posters which remind children and adults across our school community about the importance of remembering not to bring nut and peanut products into school. We would like to remind parents that this also includes any items which have contained nut products. As Christmas approaches children may begin to bring in items for parties or special lunch items, we would remind parents to be particularly vigilant at this time to ensure that no nut or peanut items are brought into school.

**Christmas Lunches**

This year the children will have their special Christmas lunch on Wednesday 15th Christmas Dinner Day.

The week of 13th December will be a special menu week planned by Mrs Curtis. You will be able to select and order these meals in the normal way.

**Christmas Productions**

Each class has now started the exciting task of practising their Christmas Productions. This year Key Stage 1 will be performing songs and a nativity tableau, whilst Key Stage 2 will be presenting, ‘Old Stratford at the Movies,’ a collection of favourite songs from Christmas Films.

Given the need for the school to continue to manage the risks associated with Covid, we have made the difficult decision to present all of these activities on-line again this year. Whilst this is disappointing for all concerned, we believe that the safety of our whole school community is of paramount importance.

Our in-house tech experts will be filming and producing the shows for us. During the last week of term, you will be sent a secure link to access these shows so that you can watch them with your children. We hope you enjoy them!

**Christmas Parties**

During the last week of term children will be enjoying a Christmas party with their classmates. More details to follow from class teachers nearer the time.

**Christmas Cracked!**

The Bridgebuilder organisation will be coming into school before Christmas to work with Year 5 to help them understand more detail about the Christian festival of Christmas. They will participate in activities and challenges that help them to think at a deeper level about the true meaning of Christmas.

**Allergy Awareness Day**

Early next term, we are planning an awareness day for the children. During the day, children will be learning about different types of allergies and be participating in a range of activities and discussions to heighten their awareness. We will be focusing particularly on nut and peanut allergies during the day but will also be considering other types of allergy that children may have.

**Visits and Visitors**

It has been great to see that some of our children are now beginning to be able to enjoy events within school and visits within the local community.

Year 1

*Year 1 went on a very exciting trip to the woods in Stony Stratford to look for signs of autumn. They spotted many things including lots of fallen leaves, pine cones and berries being ripened by the autumn sun. They enjoyed creating their own nature-based works of art by making autumnal trees out of sticks and leaves from the ground. They then stopped for a well-deserved drink and snack at their very own car park café, provided by Mrs Wilsdon, before heading back to school. The children all behaved brilliantly and had lots of fun.*

Year 5

Year 5 enjoyed a visitor who helped them to learn more about their Ancient Greek history theme.

Written by Lily and Seren

*We met Nikos who showed us his ‘Time Travel Tape Measure’ then we had a quiz where there were 8 quiz boards, filled with information which we used to find the answers. Next, we acted out the Greek myth of Daedalus and Icarus together. After that we played an ancient Greek game which was played by heroes before they went into battle. Nikos showed us some Ancient Greek weapons and armour. The armour was mostly made out of linen and the weapons were made of bronze. After seeing the armour, we learnt the military commands of ‘steappa, hoplitis and doris’. Finally, we hosted our own Olympic games between Athens and Sparta.*

The children were very engaged with these activities, learnt a lot about the Ancient Greeks and most importantly had lots of fun!

**Children in Need**

It was lovely to see all the children dressed up for our Children in Need Mufti Day on Friday 19th November. A huge thank you for all your generosity. As a result, we were able to send £211.56 to this charity. Photos of this event can be found on our website.

**Old Stratford in Bloom**

Unfortunately, the recent storms damaged one of our trees next to the front entrance of the school. As a result, the tree had become unsafe and it had to be removed. Luckily, Old Stratford in Bloom offered us a replacement tree. They have now sourced and planted a lovely new cherry tree which should give us beautiful blossom for many years to come. A big thank you to the volunteers at Old Stratford in Bloom for their generosity.

We wish you all a very happy festive season.

