

CAGE GREEN NEWSLETTER



November 2014

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Welcome back to a new term—it definitely seems winter is coming! I would like to begin by thanking all of the parents, who over the last few weeks, have very kindly donated money to assist Charlie Middleton and his family during this difficult time. It was fantastic to see the amount of support the Cake Sale and the Disco received—the queue for Cakes filled the playground! On behalf of the school we would like to wish Charlie all the best during this difficult time.

The last few weeks have seen many events happening throughout the school. On the 23 October I had the pleasure of accompanying Year 3 on their educational visit to Tower Bridge. The day consisted of a tour around Tower Bridge including walking across the observational deck looking out across the Thames and finished with a tour around the Tower of London looking at the poppies. The children's behaviour was exemplary throughout the day and I hope they came home full of stories about what they had learnt.

The series of Harvest Festivals were also a huge success partly due to the large number of parents/carers who attended. It was unfortunate I couldn't attend on the 7 October but Mr Hall informs me the children performed their songs exceptionally well. I even hear all the technology worked this year! The Key Stage 1 performance was also very well attended with the children's singing sounding beautiful. To conclude our Harvest celebrations Year R visited Penruddock House to perform a series of songs for the residents. To see sixty four and five year olds singing Harvest songs must be one of the highlights of the year so far.

We had approximately eighty parents/carers attending the Parents Forum on the 9 October. This session focused on the changes to the new curriculum and how Cage Green are implementing these. In summary the level of expectation on your children has increased tremendously: the knowledge and skills we once would expect from a Year 3 child is now what we would expect from a Year 2 child. With this in mind it is even more important that the learning is supported at home through the daily reading, daily times table practice and the homework. The presentations shown during the evening are available on the school's website as well as a 'Guide for Parents' detailing the changes to the national curriculum. The next **Parents Forum** will be held on **Thursday 27 November** and will focus on the teaching of early reading, in particular phonics. In response to parental requests we will be hosting one session at 2.00 p.m. and one session at 7.00 p.m.—hopefully this will allow more parents to attend.

Another exciting upcoming event is our Music Concert—this will be held on the **16 December** in the school hall. This will be an opportunity for parents/carers to enjoy a night of music hosted by Music Station. The children who have been learning to play musical instruments will be performing as well as the children's choir. The children will be accompanied by the Music Station band as well as the band performing a few of their own pieces. The last time they performed still gets talked about now between the children and staff. Tickets will be on sale very soon at £5 each and we predict the evening to be very popular so it will be 'first come first served' I'm afraid. All money raised will be used to purchase more musical equipment /instruments.

The Music Concert is the first event of a very busy week. Also that week we have our Year R Nativity performance to parents on the **17 December** at 9.30 a.m., children's Christmas parties on the afternoon of the **18 December** and to finish the week, we have our Carol Services at Tonbridge Baptist Church on the **19 December** (Years 1 and 2 in the morning and Years 3 to 6 in the afternoon). On the topic of Christmas, can I please request that the children do not bring their Christmas cards into school until the 8 December—this will be when the 'Cage Green post-box' service becomes live.



Parents Consultations



All parents/carers are invited to discuss your child’s progress with the class teacher on either the 2 or 3 December. Both evenings will begin at 3.30 p.m. and letters will be sent out within the next few weeks detailing the class teacher’s availability. These meetings are very important in your child’s education so can I please encourage all parents/carers to attend. If neither of these dates are suitable please discuss possible alternatives with the class teacher.

Children in Need

As you may know, Friday 14 November is ‘Children in Need’ day. Therefore to support this wonderful work and to stay with the theme of ‘Heroes’, children can dress up as a Superhero (please no accompanying weapons), a hero from history, maybe a book character who has been inspirational or they may even wear some Pudsey merchandise. We are asking for a donation of £1 if they wish to come dressed up — our target is to raise over £500.

Remembrance

This week we have been discussing with the children the importance of remembrance and the particular significance of Remembrance Day this year—it is one hundred years since the start of World War One. We have had visitors into school hosting sessions entitled ‘The Great War Presentations’ which I’m sure the children have told you all about and all the children have made poppies. Some have been made out of material, some out of clay and Mrs Dove, Mrs Fisk, Miss Gower, Miss Barker and Mrs Francis have collated all these in a wonderful display. I have included pictures below and if any parent/carers would like to view the display please ask at the School Office.



PE Kit



As the days are becoming colder and the field wetter, it is essential you provide your child with a tracksuit and trainers for outdoor PE. School jumpers are not allowed to be worn for PE and plimsolls are not suitable for use on a wet, muddy field. PE is a vital part of the national curriculum and will take place in all conditions as long as the school deems it safe to do so.

PACT Cake Sale



Just a reminder there will be a Cake Sale on Friday 14 November after school with all funds raised donated to PACT (Phoenix Autism Centre, Tonbridge). The new play equipment in the Phoenix Centre was heavily subsidised by PACT and without them the project would not have happened.

Yours sincerely

G Garthwaite

Term Dates—2014-15

Term 2	Monday 3rd November—Friday 19th December
Christmas Break	Monday 22nd December—Friday 2nd January
Term 3	Monday 5th January—Friday 13th February
February Break	Monday 16th February—Friday 20th February
Term 4	Monday 23rd February—Staff Development Day Tuesday 24th February—Wednesday 1st April
Spring Break	Thursday 2nd April—Friday 17th April
Term 5	Monday 20th April—Friday 22nd May Monday 4th May—Bank Holiday
May Break	Monday 25th May—Friday 29th May
Term 6	Monday 1st June—Friday 24th July