

Friday 13th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Children in Need

What a lovely day! It was great to see the children's faces light up as they came into school this morning. Being able to go ahead with some of our usual activities for Children in Need made it seem almost like a 'normal day' in school. We love the super homemade shirts - really creative! Well done!!

Look out for some of the highlights on Twitter but here are a few for you to enjoy!



A Happy Diwali to our families who are celebrating over the weekend and in the coming days. We know it won't be the same without family and friends near but hope you manage to communicate online and enjoy the celebrations with close family at home. Many of our children have been learning about Diwali in school and our nursery children have enjoyed making diyas/diva lamps this morning.

Self-Isolation Work

Cases of Covid 19 in Milton Keynes are rising and more and more schools are being affected. It is inevitable that we are going to have children who are asked to isolate either due to waiting for a test result themselves or due to other family members in the household. In order that our children do not miss out on their school work, work has been prepared by our teachers and placed on Google Classrooms (Tapestry for Foundation and Nursery). If your child has to isolate for any reason, work will be allocated to them each day by their teacher. This should be completed and submitted daily for feedback. Initially, this will be consolidation of material already covered, particularly in English and Maths, however, should the isolation period be extended to 14 days, our staff will ensure children access the work going on in the classroom so no learning is lost. Of course, children should only access the work if they are well enough to do so. Although we are well prepared, we hope we won't have to pull on this resource too often.

We thank you for taking a vigilant approach to health and hygiene and ensuring your child stays at home if they are unwell. If your child has any of the Covid symptoms outlined in the Government guidance - a persistent, dry cough; a high temperature or a loss of taste or smell, they must stay at home and a test should be booked immediately. Any siblings must also isolate whilst waiting on a result for the symptomatic child. Siblings will be able to access work if they are self-isolating for this reason. Thank you for your support as we all work hard to keep our families, staff and children safe.

Chromebook purchasing for Y1-Y6 pupils

More information about the purchase of a Chromebook for home use is on the school website, including the flyer and the link to the portal. Please use the code emailed to you last week to register.

<https://www.gilesbrook.co.uk/purchase-a-chromebook.html>

The last day to order a Chromebook is: **Thursday 26th November** <https://gilesbrookschoo.parentportal.biz/>

Residentials - Snowdonia - Year 6 Sheringham - Year 5 Caldecotte - Year 4

If you would like to reserve a place for your child on the 2021 residentials, please let Helen know as she needs to give the estimated numbers to the companies. The deposit doesn't need to be paid until we confirm the residential is going ahead but we do need numbers. Thank you.

Anti-Bullying Week

Don't forget that children should wear **odd socks to school on Monday next week** which, if you are anything like me, will be easier than find a matching pair!

Odd Sock Day helps children to understand that it is OK to be different and starts our work on this year's theme, 'United Against Bullying'. Using resources from the Anti Bullying Alliance, we will be supporting children to recognise and understand bullying and helping them to understand how to manage any situations they might find themselves in.



An Act of Kindness

A very big 'Well done' to this lovely young lady in Y6 who decided to have her hair cut for the Little Princess Trust.

She says, "I am cutting off my lovely long hair for Little Princess Trust because children with cancer need it more than I do."

What a kind and thoughtful thing to do which will certainly make a difference to the lives of others. Amazing!

Finally, I can't believe how quickly this term is going! It has been a very busy start to November, even with the current Government lockdown. Early next week, I will send out our plans for the Christmas activities we will be undertaking in school this year.

Enjoy the weekend.

Best wishes

Angie

Angie Bailey
Deputy Headteacher/Head of School