

## Newsletter: October 2019

Dear Parents

(Don't forget to scroll down to the last page of this newsletter for more photos of 'life in our school' during the first two months of the new school year).

Thank you for supporting our **PTFA Breakfast** on the last Friday of half-term; it was good to see so many of you join us for the first PTFA activity of the school year and together we raised £113.77 to boost PTFA funds!

The next major PTFA event is the **Advent Fair on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**. Please keep your diary free for that afternoon as we would welcome your support for this, our second largest fund-raising activity of the school calendar.

The school Advent Fayre will take place on Saturday 7th December from 12-4pm. This is a fantastic festive event and one of the highlights of the school year. The PTFA needs lots of support to run the Fayre - please help! We need:

\*Raffle prizes - are you or your company able to donate a raffle prize? Donations of services and 'money can't buy' prizes can help us raise lots of money, eg. a donated haircut, beauty treatment, gardening services, trip away, meal or afternoon tea – can you help? Please let the PTFA or office know or email

[beckeparker@hotmail.com](mailto:beckeparker@hotmail.com)

\*Ideas for stalls and games

\*Lots of help on the day

\*Toys for the toy tombola

\*Bottles & chocolates for the drink & chocs tombola

*Donation days will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> (bottles or £2 per child) and 22nd November (gifts for the gift stall, eg. toiletries, candles, photo frames,*

*any unwanted gifts or £2 per child) - when children bring in a donation for the Fayre in return for not having to wear school uniform for the day.*

As you know, the PTFA committee work very hard to support the work of the school and I am very grateful to each one of them for their time, energy and commitment. They offer their services because, like you, they care passionately about our school and want the very best for all of our pupils. Their effort and your support makes it possible for us to give the children so much more than you would normally expect from a state funded primary school. Without significant financial contributions from the PTFA we would not have two minibuses that enable us to take the children on wonderful outings to support and enrich their learning back in the classroom; we could not have afforded our fantastic MUGA or upgraded our Activity Trail this summer; class outings would be drastically curtailed without the £3500 we receive each year to subsidise the cost of trips and workshops; our Sport Enrichment programme (offered at no cost to parents) would not be possible without an annual £2000 contribution and our yearly subscription to the Barnet School Library Service would not be possible (this is a new purchase which in recent years the school has been unable to make). In addition the PTFA contributes thousands towards much needed resources (inter-active whiteboards, laptops, chrome books, etc.).



As you know from media reports, funding for schools is at a crisis level and despite careful financial management over time, we are now as badly affected by this as all other schools. Never therefore has the PTFA had a more important role to play and its contribution to school funds, the curriculum offer and resources should never be underestimated. None of this would be possible without your support too. Thank you.

Talking of **Sport Enrichment**, the 2019-20 programme is up and running! In the first two months of the school year, Y6 have had four **kayaking and bell-boating** lessons at the Welsh Harp; children in Y5 have completed three out of four **sailing** lessons courtesy of the Phoenix Canoe Club and the Royal Yachting Association and Y3 will have begun their six week **archery** course. As you know, this programme extends to all children from Reception to Y6, it is offered at no cost and it supplements our existing P.E and sports offer. If you haven't seen it yet, do have a look at the Sport Enrichment power point on our website to learn more about this exciting and unique offer to our children.

A reminder that we offer a **Breakfast Club and After School Club** to pupils from Reception through to Y6. These clubs are run by Sherpa Kids and more information about this can be found on the school website under the Information tab. Enquiries need to be made to Franchise owner John Geers.



Thank you for supporting our **MacMillan Coffee Morning**. With your help and the

additional support of St. John's Church, Denise Becker managed to raise an incredible £578.39!

As you know, nothing stands still for long in the world of education. With the introduction of a new Ofsted Inspection Framework in September 2019 schools are looking closely at the **curriculum offer** and we are no exception. As a result we are in the process of reviewing and redesigning some areas of learning. Information relating to curriculum content can be found on the year group page of the website and on the newly created 'Curriculum' page. New content has been added and will continue to be added during the next fortnight. Please visit this page during the course of the term to understand both content and the method of delivery.

Congratulations to Y1 who excelled with their singing at the '**Infant Music Festival**' the week before half-term. They were the youngest class there but you would not have known that by the quality of their performance!

Thanks to all parents and grandparents of Y2 children for turning out in such great numbers for our first **class assembly** of the school year. Well done to Y2 for a nice performance about plants.

We are hosting this year's '**Save the Children Christmas Jumper**' photo shoot on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October. EYFS and Y6 pupils will be assisting Shay who was selected for the starring role in this year's promotion. Well done Shay. It will be an exciting and interesting day for everyone taking part.

Please make a note in your diary – autumn term **Parent Teacher consultations** will take place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November. You will soon be able to your appointment using our online booking system.

Our KS2 Shakespeare workshops took place earlier in the month and we now look forward to our trips to Wyllotts Theatre, Potters Bar, to see the show. Every year our junior pupils learn about a different play; this year it's **Macbeth**. Y4 & Y6 attend on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, am and pm respectively; Y3 and Y5 on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>, am and pm respectively. Please note that the afternoon group will not return to school until 4.10 pm, traffic permitting. What a wonderful introduction to Shakespeare in primary school!

Every Monday afternoon we run a keep fit session after school for Reception Class and KS1. Muneera, who runs '**Born to Move**', has offered to run a Breakfast session for KS2 pupils on Fridays from 8.15-8.45 am. There will be a charge of £3.50 a session. Please contact the school office if you would like your child to take part.

And finally and importantly, I write to inform you that **Gail Francini**, teaching assistant, retired from school last week. Gail's association with the school has been a long one. Both her children attended St. John's and she has worked here for many years, joining us as a meal-time supervisor in 1999 and as a teaching assistant in 2006. Gail has always been passionate about children's schooling and welfare and she has given tirelessly of herself for over twenty years for the benefit of all the children she has supported. Imaginative, creative and committed to helping children develop through their learning, Gail's contribution in and outside of the classroom over time has been immense (Gail has voluntarily organised and frequently made all the costumes for our summer junior shows and Christmas Nativities) and we will all miss her greatly. I am sure that you join me in thanking her for her dedicated service to the school and you too wish her a long, healthy and happy retirement.



**MRS. FRANCINI ....  
'ANYTHING THE CHILDREN CAN DO...!'**



**Y5 SAILING COURTESY OF THE R.Y.A.**



**AUTUMN LEAF ART WITH MRS. POLL**



**'SAVE THE CHILDREN CHRISTMAS JUMPER PHOTO SHOOT' ....and you don't have to be a child to enjoy a good photo shoot!  
(ELLA PAPUC, TA)**



**P.T.O.**

## Y4 BUG HOTELS WITH MR. DAVISON



## SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER WIDER CURRICULUM AND

Y6 kayaking x4 (Phoenix Canoe Club)	Y2 Knebworth House	Y5 sailing x4 (Phoenix Canoe Club)
Harvest Festival & supporting HAB	Black History Month	Y6 WW2 trip to Lincolnsfield
KS2 Macbeth workshops	Y3 Sugar workshop	KS1 Music Festival
Y3 Cooking workshop	Y6 Poetry workshop	Y3 Toddler Group@Parish Centre
Y3 Archery	Football & Netball matches	Y5 trip to Hatfield House
Reception trip to Discovery World	Cross-country competition	Y1/2/4 Black History Month workshops