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Dear Parents,

Anti-Bullying Week – 13th November – 17th November

Anti-Bullying Week is going to be from **Monday 13th November – 17th November** and the message this year is 'Make a Noise about Bullying'. The children are invited to come into school wearing odd socks on **Monday 13th November** to take part in 'Odd Socks Day'. This is to help us celebrate our differences and to remember we are all unique, which is a great thing! No donations are needed.



To continue this theme, the children can take part in the 'Fun Odd Socks Competition' where they can send in a photo of their pet or a toy wearing odd socks. We would like to receive entries by **Wednesday 15th November** please and a KS1 and KS2 winner will be announced next Friday.

Children in Need - Friday 17th November 2023

The children are invited to wear their own clothes on Friday 17th November in return for a donation to Children in Need. They may choose to wear something spotty or Pudsey-related.

During the day, every child will take part in a 'Pudsey Bearpees Challenge.' The child in each class who can do the most 'bearpees' in a minute will receive a prize.

Watch out for some of the children in Matt Thacker's Football Club on BBC Children in Need next Friday, as they had the opportunity to meet Pudsey and show him their 'bearpees' last week!



Nurturing the spark of God within

"Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles" Isaiah 40:31



Deck the Halls – Saturday 18th November 6:30-9:30pm

Leybourne Church are holding a Christmas Fundraising event at the Village Hall on Saturday 18th November. The evening runs from 6.30pm to 9.30am but there is no obligation to come for the whole evening so you can pop in whenever you like. Ladies, gentleman and children (under 12 free) are all welcome.

Please email Janet at j.tootal@btinternet.com or telephone on 01732 870809 or 07802 428662 to book tickets. Thank you for your support.

Mr Mason

I am sure you will have noticed that the school grounds have not looked as tidy as usual this week. Very sadly, Mr Mason had a heart attack last weekend and is currently in hospital, where he is doing well and is in good spirits. I am sure you will join with me in sending our love and best wishes to Mr Mason for a full and speedy recovery.

New Intake Tours / Information Evening

A reminder that we are offering tours of the school to prospective pupils and parents during the month of November. If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2024, please do contact the school office to book on a tour. I am very pleased to say that Mrs McKiernan, who will be covering Miss Dale's maternity leave, will be joining us for the information evening next Wednesday.

PTFA Christmas Fayre – Saturday 25th November 11am – 2pm

Just a reminder that the Christmas Fayre is taking place on Saturday 25th November – we hope to see you all there. As always, we would be very grateful for any offers of help, both before and on the day. Events such as the Christmas Fayre involve a good deal of work, so life is always much easier if it can be shared!

Remembrance Service

I would like to thank Revd Helen for leading such a lovely Remembrance Service for us today. As always, the children were wonderful – so respectful and well behaved. We were all incredibly proud of them!

School Grounds

We have been made aware that some parents and neighbours are using the school field in the evening and weekends as a place to exercise their dogs. Please do not do this! We have had a few incidents recently of children stepping in dog mess on the school field (usually along the fences backing on to Bridgewater Place). This is obviously very unpleasant and upsetting for the children, and totally unacceptable.

I can assure you that the dog mess is not caused by Fletcher. He is not exercised on the school field and is always accompanied by an adult, who would clear up any mess if necessary. This mess is a result of people using the school field to exercise their dogs without permission and in flagrant disregard of the rules.

We do also have times when local teenagers use the school field without permission – again, this is unacceptable, and is actually trespass.

The Hygiene Bank - Reverse Advent Calendar

This year we would like to get all the children in the school involved in our 'Reverse Christmas Advent' initiative. Instead of the traditional advent where children receive a gift each day, we would like the children to take it in turns to donate an item for the Hygiene Bank. For more information about the Hygiene Bank please see the website below.

<https://thehygienebank.com/>

Each class will have a Christmas tree design to display in their class with all the dates between now and the end of the term on it. Each child will pick a date and add their name to the display. A copy of the completed tree will be sent home with the children, so you know which date your child has selected. On that day, please send in an item that could be donated to the Hygiene Bank. Examples of possible items to donate are:

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Comb
- Nappies
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Shower Gel
- Deodorant
- Make Up
- Skincare Products
- Toilet Roll
- Cleaning Products
- Gift Sets

If every child takes parts in this 'Reverse Advent Calendar' we hope that all the donations will make a real difference this Christmas time. Thank you for your support.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Tina Holditch
Headteacher