

## **Parentmail Bulletin – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

[www.shillingtonlower.co.uk](http://www.shillingtonlower.co.uk)

**"Enjoy, aspire and achieve together to be the best that we can be."**

**Our current value is "Inspiration."**

### **Remembrance Sunday**

Thank you very much for sending in donations with your children so that they can engage in the Poppy Remembrance ahead of Remembrance Sunday. We have a very beautiful Poppy and Remembrance display by the Library area, which the children see every day as they come and go to the school hall. Hopefully you will also have noticed the window art that has begun appearing facing out to the school gate.

### **Shillington – Stondon collaboration- meetings this Wednesday (@Shillington) and Thursday (@Stondon)**

We are really delighted at how the work on collaboration has been and continues to progress. Importantly now we are very keen to brief parents and take your questions so that this significant development is taken forward with the widest support and understanding. A reminder of the meeting times with Sarah Woodham and the co-ordination governors of each school:

@ Shillington	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	2.45 – 3.45	and	6.00 – 7.00pm
@ Stondon	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 – 4.00	and	6.00 – 7.00pm

You are very welcome to attend one of the meetings at either school.

### **Children in Need**

You could not possibly forget that next Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> November, is the glorious Children in Need. Hopefully you will have picked up the wonderful range of activities that the School Council have been planning with each class. On this day we will have a non-uniform day to raise funds – we ask that each child donates at least £1 for this privilege. This year the school council have requested that we wear spots on the day!

### **Behaviour at the school gate in a time of Peace and Friendship**

As we start our period of thinking of the next Value of Peace and Friendship, it is an appropriate moment to consider how good we are at this with our immediate neighbours living next door to our school gate. It is lovely to observe the great joy in the children and parents at the end-of-day school gate meet up. However undoubtedly parents may well have reflected that some of the level of exuberant behaviour translates into behaviour that we wouldn't really appreciate at/around our own front drive or wall back home. Could we all be alert to the children respecting neighbours driveways and staying off their walls.

### **Structured Conversations**

Many thanks to all those parents who attended our recent structured conversations. The following shows the attendance of parents in each year group attending the meetings (school total 95% attending):

Rainbows 20 out of 20  
Unicorn 27 out of 27  
Dragon 24 out of 25  
Centaur 14 out of 15  
Phoenix 24 out of 28

Feedback from these meetings has once again been extremely favourable with parents being very grateful to staff for giving up so much time to discuss in depth the children. Throughout a child's education, parental engagement with these exchanges is very beneficial in many ways – some of which may not be immediately evident but the national research shows strong parental engagement is perhaps the most significant factor in children making good progress – well done you!

## **Pixie Class**

It has been a real pleasure to see the news about our fantastic new pre-school provision spreading locally. As a result the overwhelming majority of slots in the expanded January provision are taken, but if you or someone you know is looking for a place it is still worth checking with the school office whether that may be on a day/time where we have a space.

We are also very pleased with the appointment of an additional experienced and delightful full-time member of staff for Pixie's.

## **Snacks at Break-times**

Can we please remind parents that children in Years 3 and 4 can bring in FRESH/DRIED fruit or vegetables ONLY for mid-morning break. Smoothies, chocolate, yoghurt covered fruit, breakfast bars or pre-packaged snacks are not acceptable.

Please note that NO CANS OR FIZZY DRINKS are allowed in school.

## **Donations**

Shillington Lower is grateful for the following donations:

- £200 from the Shillington Clay club.
- £49.88 from Ms Whitfield and her family following their annual Halloween celebration.

Both were wonderful and much appreciated gifts. – thank you.

## **Christmas Star Template**

We are looking forward to taking part in the village Christmas Tree Festival (1<sup>st</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> December) at the Congregational Church. This year the appeal is for the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund. Last year they raised a superb £1,700 for SENSE.

We will be taking a tree and would like to cover it in decorations from the children. Next week we will be sending out a Christmas Star template as the most straightforward way for the children to create something at home to make our tree lovely and eye-catching! If you have other thoughts about what you and your child would like to do to hang on the tree, do feel free to let your creativity flow.

## **Shillington Superstars**

*Rainbows: Chester*  
*Unicorns: Ethan S*  
*Dragons: William*  
*Centaurs: Elio*  
*Phoenix: Camille*

Well done everyone!

## **Dates for your diary**

17th November	Children in Need <i>£1 donation</i>
1st – 3rd December	Christmas Tree Festival at Congregational Church
7th December	Pantomime visit Jack & The Beanstalk – <b>children in at 8.30am please</b>
8th December	PTFA Christmas Fayre
11th December	KS1 Carol Service 2pm <i>at All Saint's Church</i>
12th December	KS1 Carol Service 10am <i>at All Saint's Church</i>
13th December	Christmas jumper day <i>£1 donation</i>
13 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Dinner – <i>details to follow</i>
14th December	Rainbows Nativity 10am & 2.30pm- <i>in school</i>
15th December	Parent open session: Christmas Crafts 9:05am – 10am

## **Term Dates**

Tues 5th Sept 2017 – Tues 19th Dec 2017

Weds 3rd Jan 2018 – Thurs 29th March 2018  
(Half term 12th Feb – 16th Feb 2018)

Tues 17th Apr 2018 – Fri 20th July 2018  
(Half term 28th May – 1st June 2018)  
May Day 7th May – Sch Closed

**\*\*Please note our school is open Mon 4th June 2018 (some surrounding schools closed)\*\***