



## Open-mindedness Day

We appreciate that it is not quite November but the school holidays are falling a little late this year and we wanted to remind you all about Open-Mindedness Day which takes place on Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup> (moved from Friday due to Year ½ PE). This is a day in which we encourage the children to dress up in the most unusual way possible and then try to be open-minded towards this, accepting that it is ok to be different. As a key school value, we aim to teach the children to accept that things can be different – Mr Grimsby can wear a skirt – and whilst this may make them feel funny inside as it is not the norm, we have to still show respect and act positively towards them.

We hold this day annually and is one of the most fun ways in which we teach our school values. The day also coincides with Anti-bullying Week and Children in Need. Therefore, we would ask for a voluntary donation of a £1 in order to support this charitable work as it is classed as a non-uniform day where normal uniform policy does not apply including for make-up, hair etc. Most importantly, please do not buy anything specific for this day if possible and donate to this great cause instead.

## Listening tool not a fidget toy...

Within the last few years, we have seen a quadrupling of the number of pupils that we teach diagnosed with a special educational need based around their attention. As a result, we have had to start thinking about the reasonable adjustments that we can incorporate into our normal classroom that helps support these children with their listening and attention as this has come at a time where our teaching support staff has reduced by just under 25%.

One fairly common approach is to provide something to keep a child's hand busy whilst they are trying to attend to the class teacher – a fidget toy. Such items will be more apparent in the classroom as they are provided by the SENDCO in line with a child's individual education plan. However, we are going to try (it is very difficult!) to call these listening tools rather than fidget toys as essentially, children will only have these so long as they aide a child's listening. If not, they are simply a toy, a distraction and therefore, not something that we would allow.

The reason for explaining this change is that for other pupils in the class this can be confusing. Consequently, we have children who are superb listeners, who excel in their learning and have no special educational needs, now attempting to bring in similar items. As these are not needed, we are naturally asking them to put these toys away as we have had to establish a clear set of rules for their use. If possible, please could you try to explain why the majority of the children are not permitted to bring toys in even though they may argue a jelly cat would support their listening also.

## Anti-bullying Ambassadors

Everyone can wear ODD SOCKS 10th November 2025 to kickstart Anti-Bullying Week. Our ambassador team will be having meetings beforehand to remind ourselves what bullying is and what it is not so we can help and support our friends in classes that week. #TEAMWORK #KINDNESS

## Parent Teacher Association

The PTA have their first event on the 13<sup>th</sup> November, our Adults only BINGO, tickets are limited so be quick, these can be booked via Scopay. It's a great popular evening out for friends, grandparents, aunts & uncles. We have some great prizes, a prize raffle and refreshments, so why not come along and support the PTA and have some fun. We'd love to see as many of you there. With Christmas around the corner we are asking for donations of teddy bears (in good condition), any prize donations for our tombola, pre-loved logo uniform or raffle prizes. These can be handed into reception at any time. As usual we'll be asking for treat filled jars in exchange for your children to wear their Christmas jumper on the 5<sup>th</sup> December. Keep an eye on our PTA Facebook page for updates on what's coming up.

## Diary Dates

NOVEMBER			
3rd	Monday		Children return to school
3rd	Monday	15:30 - 16:15	Reading at Home - EYFS Parent Awareness Session
4th	Tuesday		Cedar class - Additional PE
5th	Wednesday	9:00 - 11:00	Maple class starts swimming lessons (7 weeks)
7th	Friday	10:30 - 11:00	School Choir to visit Wyndham House
10th - 14th	Monday - Friday		National Anti Bullying Week
10th	Monday	10:00 - 12:00	Y3- 6 Cross Country Finals
10th	Monday		Odd Socks Day
11th	Tuesday	9:15 - 12:00	Elder class - Additional PE
13th	Thursday	18:00	PTA Bingo
13th	Thursday		Children in Need Day: Open-Mindedness Day
16th - 22nd	Monday - Friday		National Road Safety Week (Local Area Visit)
18th	Tuesday	9:15 - 12:00	Acorns Class - Additional PE
18th	Tuesday	9:00 - 15:00	Y3/4 Gressenhall Visit
20th	Thursday	9:00 - 14:35	KS2 CPR Training
20th		15:30 - 16:15	EYFS/Y1 Phonics Parent Awareness Session
24th - 30th	Monday - Friday		UK Parliament Week
25th	Tuesday	9:15 - 12:00	Conkers class - Additional PE
DECEMBER			
4th	Thursday	15:30 - 16:15	EYFS Curriculum Awareness Session
5th	Friday	10:30 - 11:00	School Choir to visit Wyndham House
5th	Friday	15:30 - 17:00	PTA Christmas Fair
8th	Monday		KS2 Project Morning
11th	Thursday	15:30 - 16:15	EYFS Curriculum Parent Awareness Session
15th	Monday	19:00 - 20:00	Year 6 Carol Service - All Saint's Church
16th	Tuesday	18:00 - 20:15	PTA Christmas Disco - KS1 18:00-19:00 KS2 19:15-20:15
17th	Wednesday	9:30 - 10:30	Reception Christmas Nativity- Booking Essential
17th	Wednesday		Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
18th	Thursday	13:15 - 14:15	Reception Christmas Nativity - Booking Essential
17th	Wednesday	9:00 - 11:00	Maple class last swimming lesson
19th	Friday		Last day of term