

Newsletter 21st November

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Principal's welcome

We have had a very busy and exciting first couple of weeks back after the half term break. It has been a pleasure to see the wonderful children so engaged and excited by their learning. Visitors always comment upon the excellent attitude of our children; their calmness; their hard work and the way in which they use our **school values**.

This term the value is, appropriately, **Peace** and all of the children are taking part in a whole-school topic on **Remembrance** and some aspects of World War One. As so many of our parents work in the military, it is with great pride that we take part in the annual remembrance events, something which has been particularly significant this year since we mark 100 years since the end of the First World War. In October, children from Sparrowhawks and Owls, took part in the **Tedworth House** Remembrance Commemoration. Children in Year 6 also laid a wreath at the Tidworth War Memorial and all of the children in the school took part in a special Remembrance Service in school, where children from each class laid a poppy next to a candle to remember the fallen soldiers from the past. We also raised over £300 for **Help for Heroes** from our non-school uniform day. The children around the school have created the beautiful 'poppy pebbles' by the office, decorated the front entrance with their amazing artwork and taken part in a number of other Remembrance activities including Friday's World War I workshops. I would also like to give a special thank you to Mr Tidd, Mr Pearce and Mr Mercer who created the incredible **commemorative metalwork** which is now displayed on the wall by the front office.

Last week the children took part in the annual **Children in Need** events. Children (and adults!) wore their pyjamas to school for £1 and spent their money at our cake sale, to raise an amazing £500!

As well as the high-quality academic learning which the children do on a daily basis, we pride ourselves on the number of extra opportunities we give the children. This term Ospreys have begun **swimming lessons**, Sparrowhawks and Peregrines continue **fencing** and Kestrels are taking part in a weekly **dance workshop**. Children also benefit from our amazing Forest Schools, SkillForce, specialist PE coaching, music and a number of clubs such as the fantastic **Young Voices** singing club. Last week, the children in Years 5 and 6 took part in a **football tournament** and they were 8-4 victors in a match against Ludgershall Castle Primary. Thanks to Mr Fry and Mr Welch for their expert coaching!

Who to talk to...

Please remember, if you have any concerns at all, please speak to your child's class teacher as this will always be your first point of contact. There is also Miss Hargreaves the lower school leader, Miss Millar the upper school leader, Mr Williams the Assistant, Principal or myself. We will endeavour to help with any concerns. It is vital that we work together to ensure your child is happy and flourishes at school.

Homework and Reading

Please ensure that you help your child (Years 1-6) complete their homework and bring it into school on **Tuesday** each week. All homework is based on learning they have done in class. On some occasions, children may find homework tricky, so please speak to your child's teacher before **Friday** so that they can give some help (children in Key Stage 2 should ask the teacher themselves if possible).

Listening to your child read regularly is one of the most important things you can do to help them make progress in school. During November and December children will be marking up the number of times they read at home for the **Reading Challenge**. There will be certificates for children who read 20,25 or 30+ times by the end of term.

School Improvement

A reminder that this year we have 4 main aims at Zouch which I would like to share with you:

1. To improve standards in **writing** across the school.
2. To improve the **attendance** of pupils.
3. To embed new **leadership** structures across the school.
4. To develop a more inspiring **curriculum** using local resources and the geographical area.

Attendance

As attendance is one of our main aims this academic year, we will be encouraging children to be on time in school (OTIS) as often as possible. We have lots of incentives going on to encourage children with this. We understand if your child has a hospital appointment they cannot help not attending school. No holidays will be authorised during school term time unless there is an accompanying letter with the absent request form from the Military to state that a parent has been deployed or will deploy on operational duties. Each case will be looked at personally as will the compassionate leave of absence forms. Unfortunately, we have no choice not

to fine parents who take their child out of school **unauthorised** during term time.

PE Kit/Forest school kit

Please make sure your child has his/her full PE kit (including trainers or pumps) and their Forest Schools kit in school on a Monday for the whole week as occasionally the days of these activities may change. Please ask in the office if you are unsure of what your child needs for either activity.

Parent Pay

Please check your child's Parent Pay accounts for any outstanding payments. Any outstanding amounts must be paid ASAP.

Christmas Lunch

Our school Christmas Lunch will be on Tuesday 18th December. The meat option will be Roast Turkey, Chipolata Sausage, stuffing and Cranberry sauce with gravy. The vegetarian option is Cheese, spinach and Cranberry Roulade. Please select the Meat or Vegetarian option for that day on Parent Pay by midnight **Tuesday 11th December**.

Named uniforms

Please can children wear full school uniform every day (including ties for Y5/6 pupils). Please can parents ensure their child's uniform, especially their PE kit is clearly named. We have found lots of lost property this term with no names in, so we are unable to return it to the owners.

Illness

If your child is poorly, please leave a message on the answer phone by selecting option 1. The office will then be able to log your child's absence on the register. If your child is poorly with sickness or diarrhoea, we have a **48 hour** policy. Children must be at home for 48 hours from the last episode.

New Emergency Contact Numbers or E-Mails

Please let the office know any changes to personal details ASAP, it is extremely important that we have up to date information in the case of an emergency.

Parking Safety

For the safety of our children, please can I ask parents **NOT** to park on the pavement or grass verges outside the gates at any time. Thank you for your co-operation in keeping all our children safe.

Childcare Vouchers / Tax Free Childcare

We are now set up with HM.Gov as a childcare provider and can receive payment via the Tax Free Childcare scheme and Childcare Vouchers. Before submitting any payments, please let the office know your child's unique payment code which will be issued once you have selected us as your childcare provider with HM.Gov. This will enable us to ensure we allocate the correct payments to your child's Parent Pay account.

Term Details

The term ends on **Friday 21st December at 1PM**, we have **Teacher Training Day on 7th January** and the children will come back to school on **Tuesday 8th January 2019**.

December Dates for your Diary (TBC)

- Mon 3rd Dec** Rec Meeting at 9.30
- Fri 7th Dec** Non-uniform day, bring a bottle
- Wed 12th Dec** Christmas Fayre
- Thu 13th Dec** Rec Xmas play to parents at 2pm
- Fri 14th Dec** Y2 Xmas play to parents at 2pm
- Mon 17th Dec** Y1 Xmas play to parents at 2pm
- Tues 18th Dec** Xmas Jumper Day, £1 donation
- Tues 18th Dec** Xmas lunch
- Wed 19th Dec** Dick Whittington Panto / KS2 Singing 2pm and 6pm (TBC)
- Thur 20th Dec** Nursery Singing at 9.15
- Fri 21st Dec** Finish at 1PM for Christmas

Mrs Johnson **Principal**

