Meanwood CE Primary School

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Open Arms

Proudly supporting: Leeds Hospitals Charity

Newsletter: 5
6.11.26



Next Week in a Nutshell

Christian Focus: Open Minds: Wisdom

Monday: Climate Assembly- 9:00 - 9:30am
Year 6 Fiootball match vs Adel St John (away)- 3:15 - 4:30pm. Children who are involved have been informed.
Tuesday: KS2 Indoor Athletics Event- 9:30 - 11:30am. Children involved have been informed.
School Council visiting Meanwood Pantry - 11:30 - 12:00pm.
Wednesday: Faith Speaker in school, speaking to years 1 and 2: 1:30pm - 2:30pm.
Thursday: Rev Chris Balding talking to year 3- 1:15-2:15pm.
U'10 Football Match away vs Beecroft- 3:30 - 4:45pm. Children involved have been informed.
Friday: Year 4 PTA Cake Sale after school (bottom playground).

Sustainable Travel to School

Top 3 Classes...
1st. Year 5 96% active travel.
2nd. Year 4 93% active travel.
3rd. Year 2 77% active travel.
We are the most active school in Leeds.
We are the 24th most active school in the country.

CARE Champions

Reception: Oscar .
Year 1: Kai
Year 2: Jemimah and Nikodem.
Year 3: Oli P.
Year 4: Benji and Summer H .
Year 5: Harry and Jessica
Year 6: Christopher and Charlie.

Attendance

Reception: 97.5% 😁
Year 1: 96.5% 😁
Year 2: 96.5% 😁
Year 3: 91.3% ☹️
Year 4: 96.3% 😁
Year 5: 94.8% ☹️
Year 6: 98.4% 🤩
Whole School: 95.9% ☹️
Well done year 6, you are this week's attendance champions.

"Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

General Notices

Odd Socks Day and Anti-Bullying Week

We are excited to be taking part in Odd Socks Day on Monday 16th November to mark the start of UK Anti-Bullying Week. We are inviting all children to come to school wearing their odd socks as a fun way to celebrate individuality and remind everyone that our differences make us unique.

This year's Anti-Bullying Week theme is "Break the Silence", encouraging children to speak up if they are worried about bullying, unkind behaviour, or if they see something that doesn't feel right. Throughout the week, children will take part in a range of age-appropriate activities in class to help them understand the importance of kindness, respect and inclusion. We will also come together for a special whole-school assembly to explore the theme and reinforce our commitment to creating a safe, supportive and caring school community for everyone.

We look forward to seeing lots of brightly coloured and mismatched socks on Monday as we begin this important week together!



Diwali Celebrations

We would like to wish all of our children, parents and carers who are celebrating Diwali on Sunday a very happy and joyful festival. We hope that your celebrations are filled with happiness, light and time spent with family and friends.

In school, we have been learning about Diwali and have decorated our front reception area to mark this special occasion. Our Year 1 children were also fortunate to receive wonderful surprises from a parent who kindly shared a selection of Diwali-themed books for the children to enjoy. Additionally, in an incredibly generous gesture, every child received a Diwali activity kit to take home.

This was a truly thoughtful gift which was very well received by the children. We would like to extend our sincere thanks for helping us to enrich the children's understanding of this important celebration.







Children in Need: Friday 13th November

As you may be aware, Children in Need Day takes place on Friday 13th November. This year, we will not be asking families for donations to the charity, as all of our fundraising efforts are currently being dedicated to Leeds Hospitals Charity.

However, children are very welcome to come to school dressed in Children in Need-themed attire, such as spotty clothing, Pudsey-inspired outfits, or other Children in Need accessories, if they would like to join in the fun and mark the occasion.

House Points

Oak: 1383 Elm: 1294 Holly: 1423 Sycamore: 1312

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General Notices

Meanwood Big Bugs

Just before the half-term break, parents, carers and children were treated to the debut single from the Meanwood Big Bugs. The next big thing to hit the Meanwood music scene performed their own original composition to a packed-out school hall, delighting the audience with their confidence, enthusiasm and creativity.

The children were absolutely brilliant and should be incredibly proud of their achievement. A special thank you goes to Mrs Witch for leading the Song Writing After-School Club, which has provided the children with a fantastic opportunity to express their creativity, develop their talents and work collaboratively on an exciting project.

We are so proud of everything they have achieved and cannot wait to hear what the Meanwood Big Bugs come up with next. Watch this space for their next smash hit!



Forest Schools

Some of our children have been visiting Meanwood Valley Urban Farm every Wednesday to take part in an exciting Forest School project. Children from across Key Stage 2 have been enjoying a range of outdoor activities, including shelter building, wood whittling and a variety of forest crafts.

The project provides a fantastic opportunity for children to experience learning beyond the classroom, helping them to develop confidence, teamwork, creativity and resilience while connecting with the natural environment.

At present, this is a pilot project launched by Meanwood Valley Urban Farm, but we are hopeful that the programme will continue to grow. Our aim is to extend the offer in the future so that all children across school have the opportunity to benefit from this wonderful outdoor learning experience. We look forward to sharing more updates as the project develops.







Football Kit Plea

We are currently running very low on football kits and have two matches taking place next week. If your child has a school football kit at home, please could you ensure that it is washed and returned to school by Monday.

Having all of our kits back in school will help ensure that every child is able to represent the school proudly when taking part in fixtures.

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General Notices

Christmas Performances

We are delighted to be able to share the dates for our Christmas performances and look forward to welcoming families into school to celebrate this special time of year with us.

Reception Nativity

- Tuesday 9th December at 2:00pm

Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Performance

- Tuesday 15th December at 2:00pm
- Tuesday 15th December at 5:30pm

Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Performance

- Wednesday 16th December at 2:00pm
- Wednesday 16th December at 6:00pm

All performances will take place in school. There is no charge for entry, and we warmly welcome family and friends to attend. While tickets are not required, we would be grateful for any donations to support school projects and activities. Members of staff will be rattling a bucket at the end of each performance, so please remember to bring some spare change if you are able to contribute.

We are also planning our annual Christmas Church Service led by year 5. We are currently waiting to confirm the date and will share further details with families as soon as arrangements have been finalised.

Careers

I would like to say huge thank you to all those who've been in touch in response to the careers initiative that we will be starting in school. This will begin to take shape over the coming year. I will be in touch over the next few weeks once a plan is fully in place.

Thank you again.

Mrs A Johnson

Football Results

It has been another busy week for our football teams, with some fantastic displays of determination, teamwork and resilience.

On Monday, the girls' team travelled to face Alwoodley and secured their first win of the season with an impressive 6-1 victory. The team were excellent throughout the match, working hard for one another and showing great team spirit. Special congratulations go to Player of the Match, Eleanor, for her outstanding performance, and to Nova, who scored a fantastic hat-trick to help lead the team to victory.

Our Under-10s team were also in action, playing a challenging double header against Roundhay and St Augustine's. Both matches were tough encounters against very strong opposition. Although the results did not go in our favour, the team battled hard from start to finish, demonstrated great determination and never gave up.

Well done to all of the players who represented the school this week. We are incredibly proud of your effort, commitment and positive attitude. Keep up the great work!

School Eco-Council

We are delighted to announce that our School Eco-Council is now up and running! The children have already begun meeting and sharing their ideas about how we can make our school even more environmentally friendly. As part of our sustainability journey, we will be focusing on one of our environmental pledges over the next couple of half-terms: Use Less and Waste Less.

Our Eco-Council members have already formulated some exciting ideas to help reduce waste and encourage everyone in our school community to think carefully about how we use resources. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and commitment to making a positive difference.

Watch this space for further details about a special Eco-Council event that will be taking place in the New Year. We can't wait to share more with you soon!



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General Notices

PTA

Rock and Roll Bingo (at the Myrtle Pub) - Thursday 26 November
Tickets are on sale now and selling fast, please contact Linzi on 07731 160573 if you would like a ticket.

Christmas Fair - Friday 27 November 3.30pm
Help make the Christmas Fair magical
The Christmas fair is at the end of the month, and we are hoping the parents and carers of the school will help make it as success.
It will be held after school on a Friday so will be slightly scaled back to the usual fair but will still have the stalls the kids love!
There will be
- chocolate tombola
- teddy tombola
- Santa sacks (think jolly jars but in bags)
- music and the choir
- candy cane game
- cafe
- raffle tickets with great prizes

The first stalls we are asking for is the Santa sacks - please see the attached poster - and preloved teddies requiring a new home (washed and in good condition)
If you can help donate to these stalls, please bring them into the school office anytime until Friday 13 November.
Raffle tickets are on sale now on Arbor, we have some great prizes already including a top prize of £100.
Raffle prizes - if you are able to donate any prizes to the raffle please contact your PTA class rep or email the PTA on pta@meanwood.leeds.sch.uk
Volunteers - the PTA events can't happen without volunteers and a volunteer signup sheet will be sent out next week. Just 30 minutes of your time will make a big difference.

Wreath Making - Saturday 5 December, 7pm, Trinity Community Hall, £38
After the success of last year's event, our PTA Christmas Wreath Making Evening is back – and this year we're making it even more special!
Join us for a cosy, festive evening of wreath making, live music and Christmas cheer. The perfect excuse to get together with friends, enjoy a drink and get into the Christmas spirit!
What's included?
Everything you need to create your own beautiful Christmas wreath, with plenty of gorgeous foliage, decorations and friendly guidance – no experience necessary!
A complimentary welcome drink.
Live music from our wonderful singer, creating the perfect festive atmosphere while you get creative.
Our PTA bar will also be open throughout the evening, with additional drinks and snacks available to purchase.
Whether you're coming with friends or fancy meeting some new faces, we promise a lovely, relaxed evening – and you'll leave with a gorgeous handmade wreath to proudly hang on your door!
Tickets on sale on Arbor, spaces are limited, so be sure to book early!
We can't wait to kick off the festive season with you!

Cake Sales:
Yr4 - 13 Nov
Yr3 - 11 Dec

TEAM PTA

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General Notices

Meanwood Park Christmas Festival - Thursday 3rd December

We are excited that our school choir will be helping to kick off the Meanwood Park Christmas Festival on Thursday 3rd December. The festival takes place in Meanwood Park from 5:00pm to 8:00pm, and we would love to see as many families there as possible!

Please be aware that there will be a road closure from 2:30pm on Green Road, from the bottom of Sunset Road towards the park. As a result:

Parents and carers will not be able to park in the school car park.

Parking along Green Road near the school will also be unavailable.

Collection arrangements at the end of the school day will remain unchanged.

Access will still be available for disabled drivers and for residents living beyond the road closure.

Star Club will run as normal, but families are asked to park further away from school when collecting children.

With plenty of advance notice, we kindly ask families to prioritise walking to and from school where possible. If this is not practical, there are several alternative parking options nearby, including:

Waitrose

The Church Car Park

The Tannery

Hollin Drive

Thank you for planning ahead and helping us to keep everyone safe during this busy community event.

Top Playground Appeal Update

We are delighted to share an exciting update on our Top Playground Appeal.

During the half-term break, a bid was submitted to Sport England for the final amount needed to complete the surfacing of our top playground. This marks a significant milestone in our fundraising journey and brings us one step closer to transforming the space for all our children.

This application would not have been possible without the incredible support of Matt Newby, Director of Leeds City Basketball, who has worked alongside Basketball England to strengthen our bid. We are extremely grateful for the time, expertise and commitment that has been given to support our school community.

We are hopeful that this funding application could be the final piece of the puzzle and the last stepping stone needed to make our vision a reality. If successful, it will enable us to create an amazing, fully surfaced playground that can be enjoyed by children throughout the year, whatever the weather.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the appeal so far. We will keep families updated as soon as we hear more news and are keeping our fingers crossed for a positive outcome!

Lost Property Alert - Do You Recognise These Coats?

We have a staggering number of unnamed items, in particular coats and jackets in our lost property collection, many of which appear to be high-quality and expensive items. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, we have been unable to reunite many of these items with their owners. The lost property bin is currently overflowing, and without names in clothing, it is incredibly difficult for staff to identify who items belong to.

Please can we ask all families to check that coats, jumpers, cardigans, PE kits and other items of clothing are clearly named. A simple name label or permanent marker can save a great deal of time and help ensure lost items are returned quickly.

We have included a photograph of just a few of the unnamed coats currently waiting to be claimed...



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Open Minds- Hospitality.

This week we have been exploring the theme of hospitality and thinking about how having an open mind can help to create a sense of belonging, understanding and community. Through our discussions, the children have reflected on what it means to welcome others, show kindness and make people feel valued. As part of this learning, we have been looking at the stories of refugees and considering the challenges many people face when they are forced to leave their homes in search of safety. The children have shown great empathy as they have explored the importance of offering hospitality, compassion and support to those who need it most.

Dear God,

Thank you for teaching us the importance of kindness and hospitality. Help us to welcome others with open hearts, show compassion to those in need and create a world where everyone feels safe, valued and loved.

Amen.

Class page links

Reception

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

A note from Mr Chapman

This week has absolutely flown by! There has been so much going on across school, including dancing in our Year 3 and 4 classes, football fixtures for Year 5 and our girls' team, Forest School sessions, and, as always, excellent learning taking place in every classroom.

As we move through November and towards Christmas, it is inevitable that things will begin to crank up another notch. However, it is important that we continue to keep routines and learning consistent so that we can maintain the calm, respectful and purposeful environment that helps all children to thrive.

Over the next few weeks, there will be lots of information and updates coming your way. I would like to apologise in advance if you feel bombarded by Arbor notifications, but we will do our very best to keep you informed about the many events, activities and opportunities taking place in school.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a wonderful week ahead. To all of our families who will be celebrating this weekend, we wish you a very Happy Diwali. May it be filled with joy, light and time spent with loved ones.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr Chapman

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