



Newsletter



Issue No. 9

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

10 November 2023



End of Day Routine

We are planning some changes to the end of day routines to ensure that we have procedures in place to keep all children safe. Therefore, from **Monday 20th November** we will insist that ALL pupils in Year 3 and 4 are collected from school by a parent/adult or older sibling. From this date, children in Year 5 and 6 will only be allowed to walk home alone (without an adult) if they have signed permission. We ask for this by Friday 17th November. A letter has gone out to all parents this week to clarify the end of day routine. Please see the information and letter at the end of the newsletter.

After-School Clubs

For the rest of the Autumn Term and through the Spring Term, we ask that any children attending an after-school club are collected by a parent/carer/older sibling and are not allowed to walk home on their own. As the nights draw in, it is often dark at 4.30 during the winter and we appreciate the co-operation of all parents to help us keep all children safe.

Y6 Information Meeting

Thank you to all those parents and Year 6 pupils (nice to see you guys!) who came along to the Y6 Information meeting. Thank you to the great team of Year 6 staff who put together the comprehensive information and presentation. We hope you found the session useful. We have the register of all those who attended, so will send out the pack to all those unable to attend via the children today. Please find the presentation on the school website under "Parents' Information".



World News

This week in assemblies we have covered some aspects of world news and considered the context of the war in Israel/Gaza. We have also spent time discussing how this news makes us feel. Resources on BBC Newsround are excellent for children to watch a bite-size bulletin about the daily news. Please encourage your child to talk about what is happening in the world and how this makes them feel.

BBC Children in Need

Next Friday 17th November is Children in Need. We will be supporting this very important charity by encouraging all children to wear non-uniform on that day and make a donation to Children in Need via ParentPay.



Remembrance

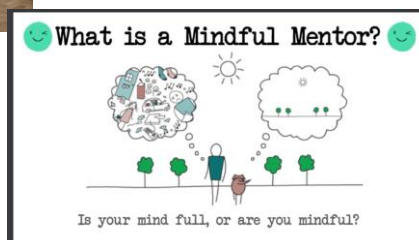
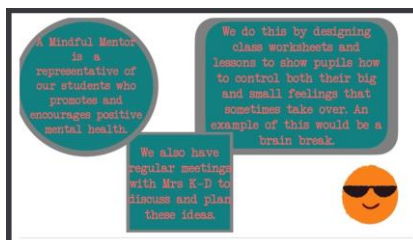
House captains have been very busy selling poppies and other remembrance merchandise during break times this week. They have been doing a fab job! TRJS marked Remembrance with a whole school assembly led by Miss Branson, followed by a 2- minutes silence, while myself and Miss Murfin took the House and Vice Captains to lay a wreath at the memorial in Barton.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*



Year 3 Mindful Mentors

Scarlett explained in Lower School assembly last week that we need some new Mindful Mentors. We are full in Y4 now but still need some Y3. Below is the information you need – please send to Mrs K-D by Friday 18th November.



Festive Book Fair and Family Read-along!

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair and festive family read-along after school on both Monday 27th November and Monday 4th December from 3.30-4.15pm. Explore the bookshelves for some best-selling stories and top non-fiction titles, find the perfect Christmas stocking-filler and enjoy some shared reading over a warming mug of hot chocolate or mince pie! More information to follow soon....



VOLUNTEERS WANTED! If there are any parents or carers who would be willing to spare an hour or two to help set-up the book fair and serve refreshments, please contact the office to let us know your availability. Thank you 😊

Competition

As part of the Book Fair, we are running a Book Review competition. All children can have a go and write about a recent book they have read: fiction, non-fiction or poetry. We are looking for a good understanding of the book and reasons for your opinions, alongside neat presentation, accurate punctuation and ambitious vocabulary. Miss Murfin is circulating the sheets to all classes. We have some £5 vouchers available as prizes, for children to spend at the Book Fair. Entries should be returned to Miss Murfin by **Monday 20th November**. Go on, have a go!

Reading Ambassadors Y4

Well done to those children who have applied to Miss Murfin and been successful in becoming Reading Ambassadors. The dates for your meetings are: Thursday 16 November, Wednesday 22nd November and Thursday 30th November, all at 3.30-4.15 in the old mobile. The successful children will be given a letter.

Parent Governors

All parents will have received an envelope via your child, or through the post, with information regarding voting for a parent governor. There are four candidates on the ballot form. It is very encouraging to know that we have four parents who are willing to support the work of the school in this way, so thank you for your interest. The closing date for returning ballot papers is 9.00am on Monday 20th November.

Swimming

There will be no school swimming from 16 November until the end of term. Lessons will resume after Christmas.

Dates for the Diary:

Monday 13th November - Y6 Barton Library Visit

Friday 17th November - Children in Need Non-Uniform Day

Monday 20th November - Y5 Barton Library Visit

Monday 20th November – Deadline for Parent Governor Voting; New End of Day Routine starts

Thursday 23rd November – Y6 Reading café at Barton Library

Have a good weekend.

J Emery

Thomas Russell Junior School
The place to be YOUR BEST

End of the Day Routine: Keeping our Children Safe

Keeping all our children safe at the end of the school day is paramount. After reflecting on our end of day routines, we propose some changes to ensure the safety of all children. The following procedures will be in place **from Monday 20th November**:

- All children in Year 3 and 4 **MUST** be collected by a parent or adult at 3.30pm each day.
- If a Year 5 or 6 child is allowed to walk home without an adult, we ask that parents/carers complete and return a signed permission for their child to do so. Please find the letter attached.
- Year 3 children will be collected from near the two Year 3 classroom doors.
- Each class in Y4,5,6 will be escorted onto the playground at 3.30pm each day by their class teacher, or the member of staff supervising them at the end of the day.
- Staff will then allow the children to go to the adult collecting them.
- We ask all parents to be as prompt at 3.30pm, to ensure the safety of all children.
- All parents/adults collecting are expected to be **ON THE PLAYGROUND** at 3.30pm. We will only release children if the parent/adult can be seen on the playground. There are some parents who currently wait outside the school gates, on Gilmour Lane. We ask all those parents to be on the playground at 3.30pm so we can pass the children to you on the school premises.
- Although it is usually a parent/adult who collects a child at the end of school, some parents feel that an older sibling is appropriate, if that is the case, we insist that the older sibling is of senior school age.
- All parents are expected to wait in the designated space on the playground. This ensures there is a gap between parents and children, so staff are in a position to keep children safe.
- Parents are asked to keep younger siblings with them at all times and not allow them to climb on outdoor tables, walls or play equipment.
- Parents are reminded that the school is a no-smoking area, mobile phones need to be out of sight and dogs are not allowed on school premises.
- Trips – please note that parents/adults are always required to collect children if a school trip is due to return to school after 3.30pm.
- Clubs – for the rest of the Autumn Term and through the Spring Term, we insist that all children from all year groups are collected at the end of an after-school club by a parent/adult; children will not be allowed to walk home on their own from an after-school club during this time.
- Safeguarding – parents are reminded that we do not allow adults into the school building via the playground. If you wish to see a teacher, then please go to the school office to request a meeting.

If you have any concerns or questions, please ask myself, Miss Branson or member of teaching staff.

J Emery
Headteacher

The place to be YOUR BEST

Gilmour Lane
Barton under Needwood
Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire
DE13 8EU
Tel: 01283 247505
10 November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 5 and 6,

End of Day Routine: Permission to Walk Home Alone

Further to the information sent out to all parents, regarding the “End of Day Routine: Keeping our Children Safe”, I write to clarify the procedures for Year 5 and 6.

Some children in Year 5 or 6, may be allowed to walk home without an adult. If this is the case, we ask that parents/carers complete and return the signed permission for their child to walk home alone. Please note that we will not allow any child in Year 5 or 6 to walk home alone, without this signed permission.

Thank you in anticipation for your co-operation as we all work together to keep our children safe.

Yours sincerely

J Emery
Headteacher

End of Day Routine: Permission to Walk Home Alone

Name of child: _____ Class: _____

I give permission for the above child to walk home from school at 3.30 without a parent/carer.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____