



Friday 13th November 2020

Dear Parents,

As you know we have been celebrating Children In Need day today. It has been great to raise money for such essential causes and nice to see the children relaxed and happy in the non-school uniform. There were a few surprises; here is Denning the Viking (with PE kit underneath)!



Today, by popular demand, has also seen the return of pupil led Friday worship. Alongside our awards, Austin Harmer has taken the headteacher's seat in my office to lead a virtual worship about the Coastguards. Thank you Austin! I am now expecting further requests from children to lead virtual worships and I would be delighted to support the children with this. I imagine that learning to lead a virtual presentation may be another important life skill that our children will need.

Thinking about others, developing our own emotional wellbeing today is a nice lead into our Special Me Day that is taking place on Thursday 26th November. I have been enjoying reading the responses to the Special Me Day questionnaires I sent out last week. You can find this questionnaire in your child's Google Classroom account and if you haven't already done so, please do take ten minutes to complete this with your child.

Remembrance Day

We have also spent some time thinking about Remembrance Day in school this week. The children have watched some special Remembrance Day worships and our year 6 pupils have produce this beautiful art work for us, now on display in school.



On Wednesday we marked the day with a two minute silence. We have discussed showing our respect to soldiers who have fought in wars to bring unity and peace to the world. We thought about 'love' and how essentially love and kindness are the only route to peace and recovery. I think these are important messages for all of our children.

Christmas preparations

Slowly, we are starting to prepare for Christmas. We have several lovely plans developing. The first is making our annual Christmas tree decorations! This year we are taking a more 'sustainable' approach to this where the children learn to reduce waste by re-using household items. So, please can your child collect 2-3 jam jar lids and be prepared to bring them into school on **Tuesday 1st December**. Many thanks in advance.

Phonics and books

Miss. Martin, Ms. Harrison and Miss. Simkins have produced a really valuable introduction to the way we teach phonics. It is available to all parents but will be particularly helpful for parents with children in Gruffalo. You can find the resource on learners pool in the Gruffalo folder. All parents are welcome to watch!

Also, another useful link for books might be the annual Blue Peter Book Awards. Hopefully there are some inspiring ideas here:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/awards-and-prizes/current-prizes/blue-peter-book-awards/#!?sortOption=AtoZ&pageNo=1&pageSize=16>

You are brilliant!

Thank you so much to all the families who have engaged so well in our reading curriculum (please read, read, read and share books as much as possible!), Google Classroom, Spelling Shed, Doodle maths and Times tables Rockstars. I receive a large number of automated emails each time these apps are used which is lovely! Just this morning I was looking through the Doodle dashboard (Doodle is for years 2-5) and I can see how much progress regular Doodlers are making – this progress is also reflected in our teacher assessments this term. Well done everyone!

INSET days

Our final two INSET days for this academic year are now scheduled for

Thursday 1st April

Monday 5th July

Explorer Awards – Friday 13th November

Gruffalo – Poppy Burch for great message writing in the new Gruffalo message centre!

Elmer – Sam Holden for his amazing Fred Fingers spelling when writing his 'Tiger Who Came to Tea' sentences.

Paddington – Alex Holden for always trying his best and having a calm and purposeful approach to all his learning!

(Hopefully two Holden awards will lead to a celebratory weekend for the Holden family 😊)

Tulane – Nate Cornwell for persevering with your times tables practise – you were determined to get your bronze award and you did it!

Shadow – Jasmine Munden for working really hard across all subjects, including homework and proving what a great little learner she has become. Keep this up – it is a joy to see!

Aslan – Sam Small for consistently high quality work in everything he does and for taking time to help others in school.

Thank you so much!

Yesterday evening I attended the Friends of SBS AGM and yet again felt overwhelmed by the generous support of our school community. We will share the presentation prepared by the Friends both in Learner's Pool and on our website under the Friends of SBS tab so that you can look through this.

This year through your generosity and care for our school, the Friends have raised in excess of £10,000. This was largely due to the highly successful Creativity Campaign. These donations have meant that we can continue to buy amazing books for our classrooms, we now have 51 chrome books for pupils and the storage cabinets we need to go with these, plus we have built new raised beds in the garden, created a new soft fruits cage, repaired the path and purchased new tools, as well as our fantastic play equipment and many, many smaller items that are kindly funded by the Friends for all children. So thank you to the Friends committee and all of the parents who support the Friends initiatives.

Finally, a huge thank you to Aggie and Tilly Smith's parents (Katherine and Luke) for taking time to work with us to produce a 'covid-safe' welcome to SBS for prospective parents. Despite the fact I found it hugely daunting to make, I am so pleased with the outcome! If you do want to view this film, you will find it on our

website – please follow the link embedded within my welcome message on the home page. Again, please do spread the word to new and prospective parents for year R pupils.

Wishing you all a wonderful and peaceful weekend.

Warmest regards

Anne Moir

PS: You can find all of my Friday letters on the school website. Normally I write a newsletter once a month, however during these exceptional times where we have less contact than normal with parents, I have committed to a weekly letter. I hope that these letters help to keep you informed and updated with the things that are happening in school.