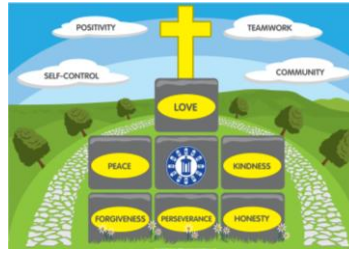




# Higham St John's C. of E (Controlled) Primary School



Headteacher: Mrs H. Shaw FCCT NPQH

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## Weekly Newsletter - w/b 07/10/2019

Dear Parents and Carers

What a busy and exciting week it has been! I have lots to tell you about things which have been happening in school or are planned to happen in the near future:

### New School Website!

Our new school website is ready and will be live before the half-term holiday. Please note: our website address will be changing to come in line with other Lancashire schools. Our new website address will be: [www.higham.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.higham.lancs.sch.uk)

There may be some overlap between when our old and new websites are running but everything will certainly be completed by the end of October. I look forward to hearing your feedback on the website; it is a work in progress and more will be added in time. Essential information is on the site already but we will be asking pupils, parents and staff if there are any other features they would like to see.

### New School Mobile App

Linked to our website will be a new mobile app from School Jotter. Once the website is live next week, I will be sending a letter out to all parents with further details on how to download and use our school app. It has lots of exciting features including: a calendar which syncs to our website and will also sync to your calendar app on your mobile device; a notices feature which will replace our existing text message service; all newsletters will come through to the app once uploaded onto the website.

### Harvest Festival

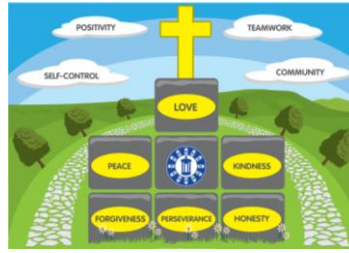
Many thanks for your generous donations for this year's harvest appeal. These will be going to the Open Door food bank locally. Please remember that the Family Service is at Higham St. John's Church this Sunday for those of you who wish to attend.

### School Sporting opportunities

As well as the usual clubs which have run in previous years, we are looking into expanding the sporting opportunities available to the children in school. A number of parents and children have asked us about Dance and this is something we are exploring. If you have any other requests or ideas, please let the school office know.



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### Eco-Committee

Our brand new Eco-Committee is now up and running and had their first meeting with Mrs Shaw in her office on Thursday lunchtime. At our first meeting, we assigned roles to each of the children ready to complete our Environmental Review; this review is a bit like an audit and helps to give us a picture of where we are as a school community. We will then use the results of this review to write our action plan.

The children on the committee will this week be visiting each class and asking them questions about our school linked to the following areas: biodiversity; energy; global citizenship; healthy living; litter; marine; school grounds; transport; waste and water. The committee will then report the findings of the review during our whole-school assembly next Friday.

### Games Clubs

We now have two games clubs running at lunchtimes (Key Stage 1 on Wednesday, Key Stage 2 on Friday). Miss Fishlock and Mrs Schillaci are running these clubs and the children are enjoying this lovely opportunity to socialise. If anyone has any old games (please ensure if they have small parts or pieces that these are all intact) which they no longer need or want, we would be very grateful for any donations.

### Mental health and wellbeing

On Wednesday, Oak Class were visited by a representative from the Lancashire Emotional Health in Schools team to talk about the importance of happiness and wellbeing. This coincided with World Mental Health Day which is on the 10<sup>th</sup> October each year.

To find out more about this service which provides free support to Lancashire schools, please follow this link: <http://www.lehss.com/>

### Date change:

Please note: we have had to change the date for the individual photographs due to a clash with our Harvest service. These will now take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

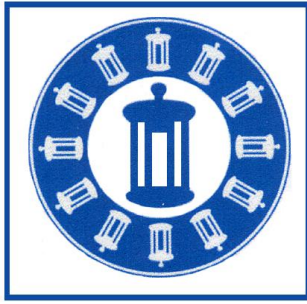
### UK Parliament Week - w/b 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019:

At Higham St. John's, we believe in preparing our children to become active citizens and helping them to make a positive contribution to their community and beyond. This year as part of UK Parliament Week, we will be taking part in activities throughout the week learning about our democracy and the rule of law.

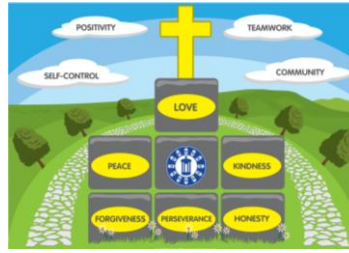
I can't wait to read all of the children's manifestos and listen to their live debates! 😊

For further information, please visit the following website:

<https://www.ukparliamentweek.org/>



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### Trips to the Pantomime! 😊

Teaching staff have been nosily booking trips for this year and have confirmed the dates, times and venues for this year's pantomime trips:

Elm and Ash Classes: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 9:00am-1:00pm - Oswaldtwistle Civic Theatre  
Birch, Sycamore and Oak Classes: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 11:45-3:30pm - King Georges Hall  
Blackburn. A letter will be sent via Parent Pay for you to give consent and to provide payment.

### Serenity Self-Care and Wellbeing:

I am pleased to inform you that Maria from Serenity will be present at both of our Parents' Evening dates to answer any of your questions and tell you more about the provision. We are very fortunate to be working with Maria who has a wealth of experience in this field.

### Important reminder:

Please can I remind parents that this year, in response to the results of our parental survey, we are having a one week half-term holiday this October in line with most other schools. In order to support our families who may wish to book flights / holidays at a more reasonable price, our INSET days have been tagged onto the beginning or end of school holidays. Please look at these INSET dates and consider using them for this purpose so that your child's education is not impacted by any absence during term time.

School will finish on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 3:30pm and will be open again to the children on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019.**

**Please note: Holidays during term time are not permitted and will not be authorised.**

**Any requests for absence during term time must be for exceptional circumstances - family holidays do not qualify as an exceptional circumstance.**

**Lancashire's attendance policy will be followed by Higham St. John's C E Primary School and families may be at risk of receiving a penalty notice.**

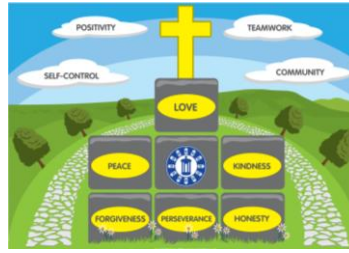
### Children's belongings in school

Please could children refrain from bringing large pencil cases into school. In Elm and Ash Classes, the children do not really need to bring in any stationery as everything they need is provided in the classrooms. In Birch, Sycamore and Oak Classes, the children may bring a small pencil case with some coloured pencils and a ruler if they wish. Any pencil cases which are brought into school need to fit into the children's trays.

School book bags may be purchased from either of the websites which provide our school uniform. These are recommended as they keep reading books, reading records, letters and homework neat and tidy and can be brought into the classrooms easily if necessary.



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### Attendance:

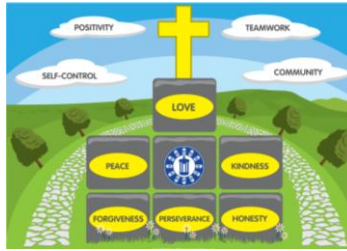
Well done to Ash Class who achieved **99.2% attendance** this week. Fantastic! 😊

Class	Attendance
Elm	99%
<b>Ash</b>	<b>99.2%</b>
Birch	97.6%
Sycamore	94%
Oak	97.8%

Date / Time	Event
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	School harvest festival assembly in church (morning)
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 3:30-6pm	Parents' Evenings
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Play and Praise session 2
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half-term
<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAY</b>	
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Staff INSET: school closed for the children
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	School re-opens
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 1:30pm - 3pm	Open afternoon for Reception 2020 intake
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	DEADLINE for secondary school applications
Week beginning 4 <sup>th</sup> November	UK Parliament Week Activities in classes all week linked to democracy and the rule of law in Britain
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 3:30pm - 4:30pm	Sports Cool Tri-Golf sessions begin
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception cohort vision screening (please return any necessary consent forms)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 3:30pm - 4:30pm	Sports Cool Kurling session begin
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Individual photos (DATE CHANGE)
Week beginning 18 <sup>th</sup> November - Switch Off Fortnight begins	Join school in trying to save the planet by reducing the amount of energy we use during Switch Off Fortnight!
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Play and Praise session 3
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Community choir singing event (further information tbc)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December from	Classes 1 and 2 attend church for Christingle service (parents invited)



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2:30pm	to attend and accompany their child)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	1 x afternoon and 1 x evening performance of the Class 1 and 2 Nativity (further details including timings to follow)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 10am - 11am	Class 1 and 2 Grandparents' morning (Further details to follow)
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2:30pm	Key Stage 2 carol service at the church
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 3:30pm	School closes for the Christmas holidays
<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Staff INSET - school closed to children
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	School re-opens