



**‘Engage - Inspire - Empower’**

**Head Teacher Newsletter**

January 2020

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

I hope you all had a good Christmas break and you're ready for the new term ahead. Whilst this half term is only 6 weeks there is still a lot to fit in and your children have already begun their new topics and have settled back into their work.

I would like to welcome a new member of staff to our team who will be joining our school office from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January. **Natasha Campbell** has been appointed as our new admin assistant and will be working in the office alongside Jacquie and Marie. Natasha doesn't start work until 9.30am Monday to Friday however she is here after school so I'm sure she will get to know you and the children over time.

**We Are Going Paperless with our Newsletters**

We are changing the way you receive my half termly newsletters and the class newsletters. From this term onwards we will no longer be providing paper copies of the newsletters in line with how we already produce the weekly newsletter. All newsletters will be emailed to you through Parentmail and on our website which can be accessed through our Jenny Hammond App. Once you have downloaded the App from your app store you will get a notification when new newsletters have been published.

**Our New Website – [www.jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk](http://www.jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk)**

Just before Christmas our new website was launched which we hope you find easy to navigate around and to find the information you want. On the website you will find the school calendar, newsletters, information about the curriculum, individual class pages including P<sup>O</sup>W<sup>E</sup>r projects and newsletters, Jenny Hammond TV and lots more.

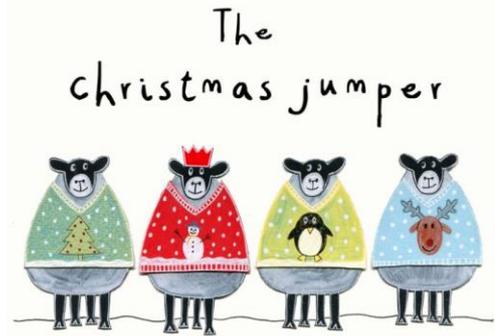
You can sign up on the website to receive the newsletters through an email where you will receive a link to click on which will take you directly to the newsletter every time a new one is published. You can also report your child absent through the website which, once submitted, comes directly to the school email which is checked regularly throughout the day.

Please take some time to have a look at our new website and if you have a moment could you also complete the survey which can be found on the home page letting us know what you think.

### Christmas Jumper Collection

A parent had a great idea before Christmas for the school to collect any children's Christmas jumpers that you no longer need to keep for next Christmas for those children that don't have a Christmas jumper to wear but would like to do so on our special days.

Therefore if you have any child's Christmas jumpers that are clean, still in good condition and most importantly you no longer want we would be happy to take them off your hands. Please hand any jumpers you have to your child's class teacher and we will carefully store them away ready for next Christmas!



### POWER Projects & New Topics

Well done once again to all the children for the effort and hard work that went into their POWER projects last half term, I continue to be impressed on every POWER project day. Photographs of some of the children presenting their projects can be found on display boards outside of the classrooms. Your children brought home their new POWER project sheets before the holiday and copies can be found on the school website which can be accessed through the Jenny Hammond App. You will notice by the hand in dates that the projects now run over the term rather than a half term. This is because we have reviewed our curriculum and as the spring term is the shortest term of the year, each year group now do one longer topic over the term.

**POWER projects due: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020**  
**Parent Exhibition: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020**

More information on the class topics will be given in the class newsletters published on the website at the end of this week.

### Carol Concert Fundraising

Thank you to everyone that gave to our collection during the children's Carol Concerts. You were extremely generous. In total and with staff contributions we raised an incredible £900 which was given directly to St Francis of Assisi Church in Stratford. We have already received a letter of gratitude and thanks from Father Michael O'Grady who tells us of one of the homeless who comes to their night shelter on a Thursday night, who had not been able to sleep well for many months, now, because of the shelter managed to get a good night's sleep because he felt 'safe.' Your money really will make a difference.

### Parent Consultations

Parent consultations and the after school classes begin again next week on Tuesdays after school. If you would like to see your child's class teacher to discuss their progress then can you please sign up on the boards outside each of the classrooms. If you are unable to come into school then please phone to make an appointment. Likewise if you are unable to come into school at that time due to work commitments then please phone to ask to speak to your class teacher to arrange an alternative appointment. Reception parents have already been given appointment times so you do not need to sign up.

### Year 1 Shakespeare performances

Anthony Glenn from the one man company 'Shaking up Shakespeare' will be working with each Year 1 class on a Shakespeare play this half term. Each Year 1 class will work with Anthony on Shakespeare's **'Twelfth Night'** over 3 days. The 3 day workshops are then followed by a performance to parents and friends in the school hall. **Holly** will start their 3 day workshop on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January and perform to parents and friends on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 2.15pm**. **Sequoia** will have their workshops the following week with their performance to parents and friends on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 2.15pm**. All family and friends are welcome to watch the performances.

### Year 6 Easter Booster Classes

Every year we hold Easter classes for Year 6 as revision for the Standard Assessment Tests, (SATs), the children take in May. This year the classes will be in the first week of the Easter break from **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**. Further details will be sent out at a later date and all year 6 children are encouraged to attend.

If your child is in Year 6 they will be given order forms this week for you to buy revision books at cost, direct from the suppliers rather than the cost of them from book shops. The CGP books are really useful revision guides not only for the SATs but also for the work your children will be completing in English and Maths in Year 7 in their Secondary school.

### BIG SING SOUL

We have been very lucky for our school to have been chosen for Year 3 and 4 to take part in 10, 1 hour singing workshops over the next 10 weeks on a Monday afternoon in school which ends with our children performing, alongside other children from Buxton school, in a concert which takes place at a venue that has the capacity to hold a large audience. More information will be in your class newsletters.

### And Finally!



It's nearly that time of year again, (and I want to give you plenty of warning), when children across the Country dress up as their favourite characters from books they love to read. This year World Book Day is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March and we will be joining in the celebrations. More information will be given out nearer the time and whilst staff maybe given a theme the children this year can dress to impress in their favourite fictional or non-fiction book characters.

*Best wishes  
Deborah*

### Dates For Your Diary

#### **Year 2 & Year 5 Fire Safety Talks from London Fire Brigade**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January – in school time

#### **Shaking Up Shakespeare**

Anthony Glenn is in working with both Year 1 classes on performing a Shakespeare play

#### **Holly's performance to friends & family**

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 2.15pm

#### **Sequoia's performance to friends and family**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 2.15pm

#### **Year 5 & 6 School Choir performing at the O2**

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

#### **Individual Class Photos**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February

#### **Children break up from School**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 3.30/3.35pm

#### **Half Term**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

#### **School Nurse Drop In**

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February – 2.30pm

#### **Year 6 Trip – Brazilian Embassy**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February

#### **Year 5 & 6 Trip – Orchestra Unwrapped, Royal Festival Hall**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February

#### **Book Fair – The Lodge**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February to Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March

#### **WORLD BOOK DAY**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

#### **Science Week**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

#### **Year 4 Trip – The Tate**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March

#### **Year 6 Trip – Science Museum**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March

#### **Easter Holidays**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April

Children return to school on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April