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## Autumn 1 Newsletter

Dear Parent,

After the summer, we have really 'hit the ground running' with our School Development Priority for extending our children's vocabulary. This may involve helping the children to understand the meaning of particular words, or more figurative phrases similar to the idiom in the previous sentence. Similarly, our Priority Two, which involves developing further opportunities for Greater Depth learning in the foundation subjects, has also been a major focus. For example, the children (and staff) have been working at developing sketching skills in art; you may have seen some of the children's drawings of historical artefacts and how they have made improvements to their artwork. Our third, and final, school priority of improving attendance rates of children has also started well, with a whole school average percentage so far of 96.8%.

Our new premises superintendent, Mr. Jackson has started this week and is already working really well with our premises staff to ensure the safety, good order and cleanliness of our premises. They are a really effective team. I would also like to congratulate our two new parent governors Mrs. Mandelj and Mrs. Townend. Our governing body continue to carry out its main roles with great effectiveness and focus, such as ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school.

There has once again been a wide variety of extra-curricular clubs on offer for the children including multi-sports club, glee club, athletics club, girls football club, movie club, drama club and rounders club. Many thanks to all the staff who put on these clubs and give up their time. In addition, we continue to have Mrs. Rider delivering a table tennis club to Year 5 and 6 pupils. Our school football team has made a good start to their fixtures in the Morley League, winning the majority of their games so far.

It was good to see such a fantastic turn out at our Autumn parents' evening. The results from the maths questionnaire will be extremely useful moving forward on our developments with calculations. Please remember to refer to the 'Mathematical Calculations' document, which can be found in the 'policies' section of our school's website, when required.

As it was the International Day of the Older Person in October, Year 6 children entertained the Elderly Action Group at Morley Town Hall with a selection of classic songs, pop songs and songs from musicals. The EAG live up to their name as they can still 'bust a few moves', I have been reliably informed!



As part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Mindmate, our Year 5 children had time for reflection and discussion during D:Side's dramatic presentation of 'Looking for Callum'. Active learning, such as this, reminds our pupils to share concerns with peers, parents and staff should they have worries on life and learning as they get older.

The children have completed their Christmas cards template and these should be ready in plenty of time for sending out at Christmas. Another activity in conjunction with FOSH will be 'Yoga-a-thon!' which takes place at the end of March next year. We are hoping to raise sponsor funds for electronic profiles in EYFS (thus helping the environment by reducing the need for colour photographs) and a new fence around our allotment on the KS2 field, as our current wooden one has seen better days!

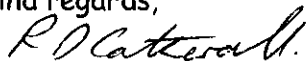
Prior to bonfire night we had a firework safety assembly presented by fire officers from Morley fire station. On another point of safety may I thank you for your patience, vigilance and support whilst we have had a number of on-going projects this term, including safety updates on the EYFS & KS1 playgrounds and the new sports canopy on the KS2 playground. The canopy should be of real benefit during PE lessons for all of our children.

Today we held our wonderful Harvest festival at Morley Methodist Church. Our children, once again, made us incredibly proud at Morley Methodist Church as they showed off their talents in singing, art, poetry and information writing. Many thanks for your kind contributions of harvest food for St George's Crypt that were made. Such contributions help to support the great work that they do in helping out with meals and empowering adults, through providing skills and training for people in need.

In school tomorrow we will be holding a Black History Awareness Day. Part of this awareness will be around the life and music of Aretha Franklin. Plenty of R..E..S..P..E..C..T.. will, as ever, be on show towards each other, as we celebrate our similarities as well as what makes us all unique.

Your on-going support with helping your child to learn their counts/times-tables, phonics words/spellings and hearing them read daily (or at least 3 times per week) is very much appreciated and makes a real impact in helping your child to reach their age related expected standard and above. Have a safe and enjoyable half-term break.

Kind regards,



Mr Catherall



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