

# Head Teacher's Newsletter



@MrGarley

Irthlingborough Junior School

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018

## **Remembrance**

We've had a whole range of events marking Remembrance in school this week. Year teams and individual classes have taken part in activities in the curriculum that have made children think about the sacrifices that soldiers gave in the first world war. On Saturday night our choir took part in a festival or remembrance in the town. Thank you to the children and especially Mr Cooper and Mrs Preshaw for practicing songs and accompanying the children.

On Friday, children in Year 6 laid individual crosses for all the men of the town who lost their lives in service. The children observed this tradition immaculately and it always generates some fascinating conversations about the names of the fallen and families with the same name who still live in the locality.

It was good today to see the town come out as it always does both in church and at the war memorial in Finedon Road. The town always marks Remembrance in their numbers through the range of organisations in the town, however it is always moving to see individual families and children at the memorial paying their respects.

## **Anti-Bullying Week**

This week marks Anti-Bullying Week. On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November we will be marking the start of the week by wearing odd socks. We will also be reviewing our anti-bullying and online safety policies in school. Mrs Meekings will be talking to our Parent Forum about our online safety policy during their meeting on Tuesday at 2:00pm.

If your child is the victim of bullying or you're worried about any behaviour in school that is affecting your child, please contact me at school.

More information about anti-bullying week can be found here:

<https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/anti-bullying-week-2018-choose-respect>

## **Reading – we need you!**

As part of our drive to rekindle a love of reading in school recently, we announced our intention to give away good quality novels to children every week in school. To get their name into the weekly draw all children need to do is read three times a week at home and get each reading session signed off by a parent in their planners.

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## **Reading (continued)...**

During the draws last week I noticed that there were fewer than a quarter of children entering into the draws. If this is an indication into how often children are reading at home, then this isn't enough!

We need you as parents and carers to read as much as you can at home with your children. Please talk to them about reading, talk about books and remind your children about the joy of a good story. Please sign their planners every time they read and this will get them into the weekly draw.

## **Lunchtimes**

You have spoken to us individually or through surveys about children's lunchtime experiences. We have listened, and last week, put the next part of an improvement plan into action by having all the children eating together in the school hall. This means that we no longer have children eating in classrooms.

We already have sport coaches and extra adults on the playground at lunchtime to encourage active play. Our next challenge is to create a better dining experience for children now that they are all in the hall together.

## **Children in Need**

This Friday is Children in Need day and the school council are inviting children to come to school in mufti or in their pajamas for a donation with all money going to Children in Need. We have been selling Pudsey ears and badges in school for the last month and have already raised over £380. Thank you.

## **Lockdown**

On Friday (16<sup>th</sup> November) we will be practising our lockdown procedure in school. The idea behind the lockdown is to manage the children's safety in the event of there being a danger outside the school or on the school grounds. At 10am on Friday we will sound the alarm (a pulsing version of our fire alarm) and all children will return to the classroom. We have informed the local police and in events like this we are working in close partnership with the Infant School who will be practising the procedure at the same time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'NPG - by'.