Leeming RAF Primary School Newsletter



November 2017

Dear All.

Well, the snow is falling as I write this, and I think we can safely say that winter is well and truly here... Of course, winter brings its share of trials – frozen roads, slippery pavements, dark nights – but it also brings the excitement of looking towards Christmas, the prospect of building a snowman, and the joy of a crisp frosty morning or two!

Here at Leeming, we've had a busy month as always; lots of plans and preparation for our Christmas productions and performances have been going on, and those of you who are coming can look forward to a real treat!

November also saw our acts of commemoration for Remembrance Day. Our Year 4 pupils represented the school brilliantly at the station's Remembrance parade, and we held our own service back in school too, including Mrs. Whitworth's rendition of the Last Post. Our Year 5 children attended the 'Service Pupils Celebration' event at Ripon Cathedral – joining pupils from across the county to embrace all that makes service life so special. A veteran of WW2 read to the children and they found the whole experience very moving indeed.

Another great event we've enjoyed this month has been the station pantomime which we played host to. There were two fantastic performances of 'Sleeping Beauty' – involving some amazing songs, brilliant acting, plenty of audience participation and even some special dance moves as provided by one of our Governors – Wing Commander Wood, OCBSW! Our thanks to station for organising this, to the British Forces Federation who provided the performance, and to those who donated to their work.

We have also held a number of 'parental drop in' sessions this month – the Maths Morning, as well as the Phonics and Spelling Drop Ins. Many thanks to all the parents who made time to come and see what we get up to in school – we've had lots of positive feedback from you so I'm really pleased the sessions were informative. The children love to share their learning with you, so thank you for joining us.

The month has been a busy one for fund raising too. Firstly looking 'beyond ourselves' for Children in Need, we raised over £400 to support this fantastic cause. Secondly, we've just held our Friends of School Christmas Fayre – which has been a huge success. My sincere thanks to everyone involved in this endeavour – it's a big event requiring huge amounts of time, co-ordination and planning – I'm so grateful to the team who made it all happen – those who set up stalls, paid for tables, provided donations, ran activities, created crafts, came to meetings, sold tickets, counted cash, visited banks, made signs, baked cakes... the list is endless! To everyone who played a part – many thanks! We haven't totalled up how much the Fayre has raised, but every penny will go to special experiences and resources for the children.



Coats and Winter Clothes - please could all children bring <u>appropriate</u> winter clothes to school – a warm coat, gloves etc. There are a few children with lightweight summer anoraks etc. which aren't really 'cutting it' in the snow and ice, and some with no coat at all. Please ensure your child is suitably 'snuggled up' to face the cold. Thank you.

Naming Items – sticking with the clothes theme – please could you all ensure every item of clothing is named with *your child*'s name (even if inherited from others!). This really helps us, particularly with younger children who seem to have a talent for mixing everything up!

Sweet Treats – Year 6 have been doing lots of practical maths with sweets recently; they have been 'bagging and tagging' pick and mix, and will be selling these at a great price at the carol services for school funds – 20p a bag or 6 for a pound!

Parking – a reminder that the car park is for staff only. In particular, it is imperative that the main blue gates to the Reception outdoor area are kept clear at all times for emergency access. Please do not allow your children to walk unaccompanied through the car park either at starts and ends of days.

Road Safety – it has been Road Safety Week on station this month, and we have been working with the team on base who were running this to ensure everyone contributes to making camp a safe place for all. Please give careful consideration to your part in this; whether that's teaching your children how to ride their bikes appropriately, driving slowly and carefully, walking on pavements or modelling road safety – we all have a part to play. Thank you.

Appropriate viewing – we've had a few incidents recently in which pupils have been accessing content and material which is entirely inappropriate for their age; this has included horror movies, computer games, and Youtube / online videos. Obviously this causes concern not only for the child who may be accessing these, but also for the other pupils with whom the child may discuss the content. Please supervise your children's use of devices, TV etc. to ensure that they are only accessing age appropriate content. To help with this, we have a parents' online safety event on 9th Feb at 2:15pm, run by our local Police Community Support Officer; letters to follow in the new year. Thank you for your support.

Teachers' Emails – a quick reminder that all our teaching staff have a school email account which can be used if you wish to contact the class teacher, but are unable to speak to them before / after school. This may be particularly relevant to working parents whose children go to after school care. If you wish to email your class teacher, simply call the office who can provide their email address. Please note, these should only be used for 'low level' communications; if you have concerns / worries requiring lengthier discussion, please make an appointment to speak to the teacher.

Medication – please ensure all medication is brought to the school office and accompanied by the relevant forms. Sending drugs / medications in children's bags is unsafe and they cannot be administered without the appropriate processes being followed. Thank you.

Snow Closures – a reminder to parents that if weather conditions are severe, the school may be closed. Obviously, in our context, the majority of children may well be able to walk to school, but we have staff who travel in from all over the area – Darlington, Richmond, Catterick, the Yorkshire Dales, Thirsk etc. Unfortunately, if staff are unable to safely get to school, we are unable to remain open. Obviously, we seek to avoid this if at all possible, but it can happen. In such an instance, parents will be notified by text message, and BBC Radio York will broadcast the status of the closure.

And Finally...

A quick note re: the Station shut down. We are aware that the station shuts down on the last Tuesday of our term, whilst we continue to be in school until Friday (which the staff all say is very unfair!). Please do not remove your children early to travel etc., as we cannot authorise these absences I'm afraid. Instead, why not make the most of the 'free time' without your children to do that last bit of Christmas shopping, or enjoy a nice day out?! Here's to December...!

Best regards,

Rob Campbell Headteacher