

Parents' Newsletter

Love, Respect, Honesty, Perseverance



Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of our school community, welcome back to the new year and thank you for your Christmas wishes, cards and gifts; we all hope you have had a super break with the children.

We certainly had an exciting start to the term with the snow and ice. Can we ask that children are dressed appropriately for the weather we are experiencing. School shoes for non- PE days and long trousers whether that is a PE day or not. The children are often outside for 40 minutes at lunchtime and shorts in these sub-zero temperatures are not recommended. We also ask that they have coats every day.

Looking ahead we are getting dates in the diary for events; please check the accompanying dates for your diary sheet alongside this Newsletter, all new dates are highlighted for your information. We aim to ensure you have as much notice as possible, however with a relatively short term this is not always easy; Learning Together sessions are included. Parent Consultation Evenings will be held the week after half-term and the results of the assessment week held this half term will be shared in those meetings.

We would like to inform you about a change regarding the external football club sessions held on Wednesdays. In order to ensure the safety and security of all pupils, we will no longer be leaving the gates open for these sessions and the club will now not have spectators. This decision has been made due to our inability to monitor who is present on the school site during these times.

As our After-School Club (ASC), after school tuition groups and the footballers are onsite, we alongside Mo, who runs the club, have a duty of care to safeguard the children. Due to the nature of the sessions, Mo is unable to monitor access effectively and it would be unreasonable for us to ask him to do so.

We understand the importance of family involvement in our pupils' activities, and we are pleased to reassure you that there will continue to be a presentation session at the end of each term. Parents will be welcome to attend these events, and we will ensure that appropriate staffing is available to manage access, similar to our I-Rock parent concert.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Kind regards

Bridgette Gough
Headteacher

Love Life and Learning

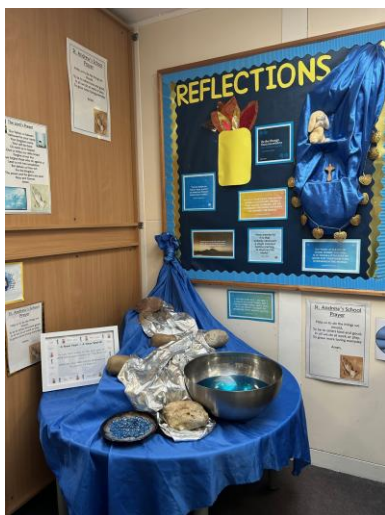
Reflections Area and Collective Worship Themes

As we came back to school we explored the idea of New Year's Resolutions and small changes that can make a big difference, all linked to the idea of new beginnings. The children shared a No-Outsiders resource with images of the New Year fireworks, alongside listening to the poem used and engaging with questions about why it might have been chosen and how they felt about it. We also shared the Lois Rock Poem, I Wish Tonight, which has been made into a super picture book. This is displayed on our Reflections Table and can now be shared at any time by the children. The poem starts with a little boy wishing as he is going to bed, the children noticed how he started to wish for his personal desires but by the end of the poem is wishing for things to be better for his friends, neighbours and finally the wider world. As ever, our school community thought deeply and their responses to each stimulus were impressive.

This week our theme has linked to our learning for life behaviour 'Respect Yourself and Others'. We have focused on kindness and spreading joy. We used a No Outsiders resource to explore the power of outlook and perspective on our personal levels of joy and gratitude. I loved sharing the book 'The Joy Troll' with the children, exploring how we should embrace the fact that children are often the experts when it comes to showing joy and spreading joy. The children in the story were even able to convince a troll that this was the way forward! We also linked this to research into joyous childhood memories and the fact that these often involve friends and/or family and interestingly being outside within nature. I linked this to Project Wild and challenged the children to not only conjure up their own memories of a joyous time but to look for joy in nature over the coming days.

Please do chat to the children about discussions in class and collective worship, I am sure they will enjoy hearing your thoughts and having an alternative audience for their own.

We share these themes with you to allow you to engage in these conversations and with a national push on improving childhood oracy this is a great start.



Headteacher's Cup

Joey Class: W1- Freddie

W2- Erin

Aardvark Class: W1- Archie

W2- Sidharth

Giraffe Class: W1- Kodi

W2- Connie

Capybara Class: W1- Mabel

W2- Ivy

Koala Class: W1- Thea

W2- Summer-Rose

Jellyfish Class: W1- Phoebe

W2- Beau

Falcon Class: W1- Max

W2- Agnes



Birthdays in January

Mya	Connie
Everleigh	Rafe
Olivia	Esme
Harper	Nicholas
Albie	Huey
Ethan	
Aubrey	
Emily	
Benji	
Ellis	
Alex	



Going For Green

Betty & Olivia

Sports Cup

Elliott C & Ruby H

After 3:30pm School Club Pick-Ups

The gates to our site will be shut at 3:30pm. If you are collecting pupils from the After-School Club (ASC) before 4:30pm, please buzz or ring the school office for access.

For pick-ups between 4:30pm and 5:30pm, kindly select Option 2 when you call. Our ASC staff will then be able to open the external gates for you. This protocol is in place for safeguarding purposes to ensure the safety of all our children.

Additionally, for interventions and clubs, children will be brought to the main school gate on Morton Way for collection.

Supporting Learners Through Targeted Interventions

At our school, we are committed to supporting every learner's progress through a variety of group and individual interventions. These carefully planned sessions, whether during the school day or outside of it, are designed by class teachers to focus on each child's next steps in learning.

If your child is selected for one of these groups following scheduled assessments or classroom observations, we encourage both pupils and parents to view this as a valuable opportunity. We recognise that parental support is crucial, especially for sessions outside school hours, to ensure consistency and maximise their impact. We appreciate your commitment to helping us build confidence, secure knowledge, and develop skills through these targeted interventions. Please make every effort to engage with any such opportunities should they be offered by class teachers.

Raising Awareness of the Healthy Start Scheme in the Braintree District

We would like to draw your attention to the Healthy Start scheme, which is currently underutilised in the Braintree District. This initiative offers financial assistance to families on low incomes or receiving certain benefits, enabling them to purchase essential items such as fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, infant formula, and vitamins for pregnant women, new mothers, and young children up to the age of 4 years.

Unfortunately, local uptake remains low, and we encourage eligible families to take advantage of this valuable support. To learn more about the Healthy Start scheme, please scan the QR code on the attached poster. We, as a school, would like you to also pass this on to any likely eligible members of your own circle to support access to the nutrition youngsters need for a healthy start.