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5th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a good half-term break and are now ready for an even busier half term! We have so many events and activities planned in the run up to Christmas, I don't know how we will fit them all in!

Maths Week

The first event to mention is Maths Week. This is planned for next week and you will have already received a separate letter about this – Thank you, Miss Maynard. We are very grateful to PuttParty Portable Crazy Golf Hire who will be providing us with 9 crazy golf holes free of charge, as we were the lucky winners in a FaceBook competition – Thank you to Mrs Symon for drawing my attention to it. The crazy golf activity will enable the children to apply their mathematical skills in real-life. See www.puttparty.co.uk for more information.

Children in Need

This school has always supported a variety of charities throughout the year, especially those that focus on children. With that in mind, our annual Children in Need day will be on Friday 19th November. I am hoping to see a spotty spectacle with the children (and staff) wearing anything spotty and, with your donations, we can help change lives. Last year we raised £377.61 - let's see if we can beat it this year!

Rotary Club

I am sure many of you are aware of the marvellous work the Rotary Club are involved with in the Canvey Island Community and will appreciate how pleased we were to welcome to the school Mrs Anne Earl, president of the Canvey Island Rotary Club, along with fellow Rotarian, Mr Rod Bishop. We have recently accepted a generous donation of six iPads to support the children with their online learning and it was a great pleasure to give our guests a tour of the school. Following the visit, Mrs Earl said;

“Having got home and reflected on mine and Rod's visit today, I must write to you and thank you for all you and your lovely staff are doing for the children of our community.

The smiles on the faces of the young people you are nurturing spoke volumes to us. You are all doing an amazing job and we are pleased to have been able to facilitate the purchase of the iPads which, by the youngsters' responses, has been a most palpable success.”

For many years, the Rotary Club sleigh, along with Father Christmas and his helpers, have visited just about every corner of the island, and I know this year will be no exception. For

many families, including mine, the sight and sound of the sleigh is the signal that Christmas has truly begun and the excitement starts to build.

However, many families will not be able to enjoy the festive season this year, as the pandemic has had a huge financial impact on so many people. Therefore, I would like this school to help the Rotary Club bring some Christmas magic to every child.

If you are able to donate a **new** toy for a boy or girl of any age, please bring your gifts to the School Office and I will arrange for them to be delivered to the Rotary Club who will distribute them to needy families in our local community. Presents can include; reading books, colouring books, pencils, dolls, teddies, games, clothing ... in fact, anything your own child would love to receive. Please do not wrap the gifts – the Rotary Club will organise this.

Christmas cards

The children have loved designing and making their own Christmas card that will be printed and sold to order at a cost of £2.50 for 4 cards. You will shortly receive a 'proof' card and an order form. All cards will be printed on card and come with an envelope. Please remember these cards are 'exclusive' and only available from the school.

Winter Fayre

Last year's Winter Fayre was so much fun for the children, we have decided to stay with the same format. A variety of stalls and games will be set up in the hall and each class given a timetabled slot to go in, enjoy the activities and raise much needed funds for the school.

If you are able to, we will be extremely grateful if you would donate any of the following items, please.

- New items for the surprise stall eg bubble bath, body lotion, chocolates, scarf, in fact anything the children will be able to buy and wrap as a present for a loved one.
- Soft toys (in good condition).

Please send in any donations to the school office as soon as possible.

Our traditional 'decorate a jar' competition will go ahead too. For those of you who have not experienced our Winter Fayre before, we ask that you help your child to decorate a jar with tinsel, glitter, paint, sequins, or anything you like and fill it with something another child would like to have such as sweets, colouring pencils a small toy or even some pennies. The jars are then entered into a tombola and the children can buy a ticket to win one. We usually have a fantastic display of the most amazing creations and I feel confident we will not be disappointed this year.

Please send your child's creations in to school before 26th November.



Learning is a journey, not a destination

Morrison's Good to Grow

Thank you to everyone who nominated our school to receive the Good to Grow tokens from Morrison's. We received a total of 3117 tokens that we will be able to exchange for gardening equipment.

... and finally

If you are celebrating Guy Fawkes night with fireworks this weekend, have fun, enjoy the spectacle but please keep yourselves safe.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Dorrington
Headteacher

Learning is a journey, not a destination

