



# KSJ Fortnightly Flyer


Dear Parents/Carers,

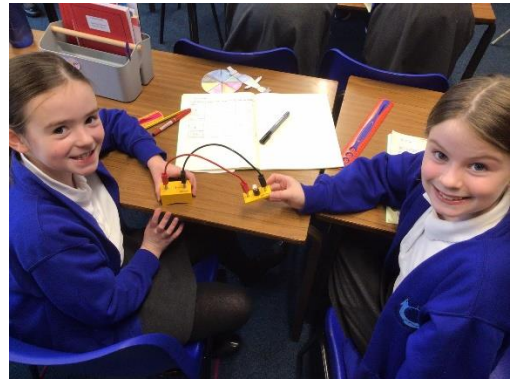
Apologies for the delay in sending the fortnightly flyer. We decided to begin a half-term start with 'Rachel and Cake' – an opportunity for parents to visit school on the first Friday every half term to discuss school developments and strengthen our work in partnership for the improved outcomes for children. As a result, 15<sup>th</sup> November was Celebration worship and thus, this week is Fortnightly Flyer. The next 'Rachel and Cake' is planned for 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Our Christian Distinctiveness

This half term our Christian values are Hope and Reverence.

The school Council would like to establish an ongoing foodbank collection with a class having a focus month. November is Wrens, December Barn Owls and January will be Falcons. Please bring any food items to the school office.

Have a lovely weekend. See you on Monday 



## Developing Independence

Over the next few weeks and months we will be having a whole school focus on developing independence, resilience and maturity. We have designed a KSJ guide to what we expect this to look like at each year group, which I will be sharing with you in the coming weeks.

Each class will be focusing upon the 'The 5 Bees'. This means children will be encouraged to use:-

Brain (try to solve it first by thinking about it)

Book (prior learning in their book, dictionary or spelling journal)

Board (modelled learning from the teacher on the board)

Buddy (can others nearby help out or a friend)

Boss (the teacher is always happy to help you when you have tried first)

## Welcomes

A tremendous welcome to our new Wren:- Seb Luckie. Thank you to the Wrens for being great advocates and supporting Seb to settle in.

We also welcome back Lynne Jones – our dog trainer. Lynne will work with Bailey, Seb and Scarlett in the first instance to support pupils and Desmond in their interactions. Please can I remind you that other dogs are not to be brought onto the school grounds. New pups or small dogs, may be held, but no dogs on leads on the ground. Many thanks

## Beacon Group

Our Beacon Group have begun their meetings (carrying on the great work Mrs Cowell did). The children have discussed what their job entails and the expectations of the responsibility. They have also begun to develop plans for a remembrance garden for Mrs Cowell. Quotes are being obtained to put the children's plans into reality. There will be prayer spaces, reflection areas, thistles and poppies and inspiring quotes. The group are now going to invite families to think of a suitable name for the garden.

## Key dates for your diary

- 20<sup>th</sup> November – Wrens Parent's Evening
- 26<sup>th</sup> November – Advent Event – Year 4, 5 and 6
- 4<sup>th</sup> December – PANTO in school
- 5<sup>th</sup> December – Midweek Communion at church – Beacon Group
- 9<sup>th</sup> December – Dress Rehearsal 1.45pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas lunch, evening performance 6.00pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> December – Afternoon Performance – 2.00pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> December – Christingle Service 2.00pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> December – Last Swim for Falcons
- 18<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas picnic, Christmas jumper day and Christmas market (2.00pm)
- 19<sup>th</sup> December – End of term – early finish at 1.15pm



## Mums and Tots

A tremendous thank you to Helen Unsworth for single-handedly planning, providing and marketing our new mums and tots session in school.

Every Thursday morning 9.30am in the Little Wrens Classroom.

### Frodsham Festival

Help wanted – volunteers to walk behind our float, Meeting at 5.30pm – time to be confirmed.

9.30am volunteers to decorate the float.

Christmas Market. Pupils and families are invited to make and create objects or things to sell at our Christmas market.

### Special events

- **Pantomime Outing** - show pictures of the actors and set in advance. Visit the theatre when it's empty or look at it online. At the performance sit at the back where it is quietest and you can exit without interrupting the show. Some theatres do special shows for children with ASD.
- **Parties** - pre-prepare, stick to agreed timings and let your child attend part of an event if this is easier for them than coping with the whole thing. Be aware of sensitivities around food and noise.
- **Christmas dinner** - be aware of the sensory challenges this may present. Offer small amounts of new or different foods to try on separate plates.
- **Christmas shopping** - It is likely that this will not be an enjoyable experience due to the crowds, noise and general overload of busy shops. Shop online, go without the children, go to late night and 24 hour shops at quiet times. Lots of children with autism love catalogues!
- **Special clothes** - Party clothes, Christmas jumper days and people in costumes can present sensory and change of routine challenges. Plan with your child and compromise if necessary.

### Father Christmas

- Read the story of St Nicholas to help older children understand why we have Father Christmas
- Decide what you are going to tell your child about Santa and teach them (maybe using a social story) how to talk about this appropriately so that they don't upset other children with a blunt comment.
- Be aware that for some children Santa is scary. Let them stand back if they feel more comfortable with this.

### Disruption to the usual routine

- Explain that at special times of year, people do things differently and that this is OK.
- Talk about Christmas time and what this means for your family. Look at family photos.
- Be alert for behaviour changes that might signal anxiety.
- Liaise with school regarding changes to routine and special events so that you can pre-warn at home.
- Be aware that the 'hype' of Christmas might present challenges in terms of sensory overload and changed behaviour. You may need to reduce 'incoming' by avoiding some places at busy times and by having TV free times.
- Make a calendar which shows everything that is coming up over the next few weeks. Highlight events as they approach and cross them off when they have finished.
- Incorporate a Christmas activity that they enjoy into their daily schedule, eg opening the advent calendar, or switching on the tree lights
- Include your child in small parts of the Christmas process (so as not to overwhelm them). Things like wrapping one or 2 presents or setting part of the table, while talking about the affairs surrounding these activities. This will help the child or teen to become familiar with the change and activity that will occur. This familiarity goes a long way in reducing the level of anxiety on the day. (Some people choose to avoid sensory overload, e.g. by adding only a few decorations each day).



## Attendance

All families should have received their half-termly attendance letter last week. Thank you to everyone for the efforts and cares in boosting our attendance data. As we continue to strive for attendance rates of 95%+ the following rates of attendance show the current picture...

Whole school = 94.4%

Year 2 = 87.4%

Year 3 = 94.3%

Year 4 = 95.6%

Year 5 = 94.6%

Year 6 = 97.7%

Persistence Absence = 9.8%

## Remembrance Services

We held a range of activities as a school community to commemorate Armistice Day. Thank you to all for the respect, reverence and Peace demonstrated. Well done to Kelsey for achieving her Guides' badge.

