

November Newsletter

The weeks are flying by and from Wednesday we'll already be in December and counting down to Christmas! The younger children are busy learning their songs and lines for their eagerly awaited plays and Mr Parker is preparing the real Christmas tree for the hall and soon he'll be hanging up some decorations for the children. We are doing all we can to make sure the children have a lovely build up to Christmas and it is as normal as possible after last year.

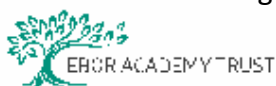
That said, we are once again being heavily affected by Covid and the staff are working incredibly hard to keep things going. When one member of staff is off it has an impact on other areas with staff being moved around to cover. Add in 4 or 5 staff members off at one time and a shortage of supply teachers in the city, it makes things hard to manage. So please bear with us, even if your child's class has their usual teacher that member of staff might be doing an extra playground duty, managing without a TA or even covering at lunch.

Christmas Plays

You will have hopefully seen our timetable of events for Christmas. Of all the events our priority is the Nativity and KS1 Christmas productions and that they go ahead with parents in attendance. Mrs Steyert will send out information today regarding booking your tickets for the plays. For Covid reasons (but also due to the size of our hall) we are limiting tickets to 1 per child per performance. I know this will be disappointing for many but with 2 classes and all the chairs we are looking at a capacity of around 50-60. Ebor are also insisting that certain restrictions are in place, such as mask wearing and sanitising hands on entry. Please see Mrs Steyert's post will full details.

Christmas Dinner

It is a tradition at Marfleet for parents to eat their Christmas dinner with their children in school. However, you have probably seen in the news about schools being asked to reconsider Christmas events due to Covid and as it stands Ebor have said that we should be cautious and take every event as it comes. With this in mind I have decided that Christmas lunch will now not involve parents this year. Again, I am sorry for this but given how quickly Covid rates are rising I think it's an additional risk we



do not need to take especially given that Christmas Dinner will see year groups mixing. The children will still have a Christmas dinner in school.

Staffing News

We have recently appointed two new members of staff – Mrs Cotterill and Mrs Clayton. They will cover lunchtimes and work as a teaching assistant. Mrs Cotterill will work in KS2 and is well known to the school after several years of voluntary work. Mrs Clayton will work in KS1 and brings with her a wealth of knowledge after previously working as a social worker. Both new staff members will start in the coming week and we wish them all the best as they join our team.

Baby News

We have yet another baby announcement to make, Mrs Hepworth is really pleased to announce that she is expecting a girl in April. I know this will be both happy and sad news for Mrs Hepworth's children and we have already started thinking ahead to her maternity leave which will likely begin at Easter. In the New Year we will be advertising for a teacher to cover Year 1 Easter to Easter. We will do all we can to make ease any worries from the children closer to the time.

Doodle Spell

After a successful trial period we have signed up our children from Years 1 to 6 to the app Doodle Spell. If you do not have your child's login details please ask their teacher. The idea is that children access this app little and often – ideally staying within 'green'. Please encourage your child to login and spend around 10-15 minutes at a time. Here is the link to the App store to download the app onto your phone or tablet <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/doodlespell-primary-spelling/id1352924704>

Late Marks

Mrs Steyert has noticed that late marks are on the increase – we had 12 today. Please can you make an extra effort to be on time for school so that your child gets off to a positive start to the day. If you are having regular problems getting to school on time for whatever reason then please let the school know and we will try and help.

Celebrating events in school

Despite the doom and gloom of Covid (I'm sorry for adding to it) there have been many positive things going on in and out of school this month that we should celebrate.

Last week Year 1 and 2 were visited by the Magic Carpet theatre company and were treated to an incredible show. We will definitely be inviting them back again soon.

Year 5 and 6 visited the MKM Stadium for a special trip where they got to tour the stadium and learn about the many ways sport is tackling racism.

The school's football team took part in its first tournament of the year. Although they didn't make it through they were a credit to the school in effort skill and good manners. Well done boys!