**Biggin C of E Primary School**

Newsletter for the first Spring Term (7/01/19 – 15/02/19)

Published Monday 11th February 2019

Last week was one of those brilliant weeks in school, full of energy, when everyone is learning so much and having so much fun!

We all celebrated the Year of the Pig for Chinese New Year on Tuesday. Children created their own Chinese music and painted 'Good Luck' symbols. We made a fantastic dragon and decorated its body with colourful streamers. Thank you to Jan Page who gave each of the children a red envelope with facsimile money inside, as well as a massive tree decorated with blossom. Jan has contact with a Chinese-speaking school so we are sending our thanks, together with a newsletter of life at Biggin school, so we can correspond with the children there. On Wednesday morning we got together as a whole school to perform a Dragon Dance. What a treat!

The theme of last week was internet safety and thank you to the parents who have already commented that the messages we have been using have been relevant and well-received. We have been particularly learning about PEGI ratings for games and apps and the importance of selecting games at the appropriate age range. We've been talking about personal information which shouldn't be shared online or elsewhere and the dangers of sending and receiving inappropriate images and messages.

In Key Stage 1 the main message is not to use the internet or 'smart' devices without the supervision of an adult. In Key Stage 2 we have been discussing online bullying and making sure our own comments online are kind and respectful. We are learning that friends online are not like friends face-to-face and we must not arrange to meet them or share personal information with them. Most important of all we have learned to talk to a trusted adult if something on line upsets or worries us.

On Friday we enjoyed working with Hartington school and Rhema Theatre for internet safety workshops. It was a great morning and we were very proud to be able to host this learning event for the two schools. A massive thank you to Mike at Rhema for such fun workshops and show, and to all the staff, children and parents of Hartington school for travelling to us on such a wet and blustery day and taking part so enthusiastically. Let's hope we have lots more opportunities to work together like this!

If you have been in the classroom you will have seen our reading corner starting to take shape and a new system for organising the reading books which is easier for the children to use. A big thank you from all of us, to Mr Swainston who helped us fix the canopy in place.

In Show and Tell this week some of our fabulous Year 6 children led us in a debate about whether fruit should be free to all primary school children instead of just Key Stage 1. This was another example of how we are transforming the Show and Tell slot to encourage children to develop their own opinions, ask questions and speak in front of others. It forms part of the curriculum on British Values including democracy and mutual respect. It was a really good start to debating and the children said they enjoyed using the poster resources. Hopefully there will be another debate soon.

This week some of our Year 5 children will be learning how to lead collective worship in school as well as presenting their ideas about a new lunchtime Change 4 Life club about staying fit, active and healthy.

On Wednesday, there is a beetle drive organised by Friends of Biggin School. Please join the fun in the village hall at 6pm if you can. It's a great way to raise extra funds for the school.

Finally the Christingle service, to coincide with Candlemas, is in church on Friday at 9am. Hopefully the children are well on their way to filling their donation candles. Again, please feel welcome to join us if you can.

We break for half term and I hope you have a wonderful and well-earned rest. School reopens on Monday, 25th February.

Congratulations!

to Mrs JL Woodroffe on winning the Bonus Ball draw for Saturday 2nd February with number 12.

Numbers 7, 34, 53, 57, 58 and 59 are free if anyone would like to join in?

**And for this week: 11th – 17th February**

Monday Spring term one dinner money still due! Please pay up before Spring term 2.

Brief meeting of **FOBS** to finalise arrangements for Wednesday

Tuesday After-school drama club

Wednesday After-school Music club / Full Governing body meeting / **Beetle Drive**

Thursday Violin lessons for those in year 3

Christingle candles may be brought into school ready for tomorrow

Friday 9.00am **Christingle** service in church - please join us

Break up for half-term

Sunday **‘It is now’**, English Touring Theatre, Biggin Village Hall 7.30pm tickets £10

**Term dates** there appears to be some confusion over holiday dates. Occasionally, our February half-term differs from the rest of the county depending on where Shrovetide sits. We follow QEGS and if there is one week’s difference we tend to alter our half-term to suit, however, 2019 has a two-week difference therefore we will use the county dates and take two INSET days for Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday.

Term dates are printed at the top of each newsletter and term/holiday calendars are distributed each September.

**Spring term dates**

February

25th return to school / £69.30 dinner money due for spring term 2

March

Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th – INSET days

7th World Book Day

15th Red Nose Day

18th & 19th Parent consultations

25th finance committee meeting

April

3rd meeting of the full governing body

10th FOBS

12th break up for Easter

Inclement weather - if you **think school may be closed**, it is your responsibility to telephone 01298 84279 or 84642 and find out. The decision will have been made by 08:15am. If the decision is to close the school, High Peak Radio on 106.4, 103.3, and 106.6 FM and Ashbourne Radio on 96.7 FM and

101.8 FM will be informed and we will send you a text message but: –

* *if your details are not up to date, you obviously won’t get the message*
* *it is dependent on signal*
* *it is not a reliable way for you to contact us*
* *and … please reply (a simple OK is sufficient)*

Also - please remember: –

1. *‘if in doubt, don’t set out’*
2. *do not leave a child at school unless a member of the teaching staff has arrived* ***and*** *they are staying!*
3. *wellies, hats, gloves and scarves needed in school by* ***all*** *children at* ***all*** *times*

***High Peak Radio 106.4, 103.3, and 106.6 FM / Ashbourne Radio 96.7 FM and 101.8 FM.***

**CHRISTINGLE** – candles were sent home last week, please help your child to fill their candle as best you can, all the money raised goes to The Children’s Society. The Christingle service will be held in St Thomas’ church this Friday,15th February at 9.00am – it would be lovely if as many of you as possible could join us.

The Children’s Society supports vulnerable children and young people in this country who are facing poverty, abuse and neglect, please do your best to fill-a-candle and help to support this vital service.

Is anyone available to pop into school ***Thursday (14th)*** afternoon ***around 2.30pm*** to help make Christingles? All items provided, just need adult assistance to put it all together!

**‘It is now’ - imagine a wedding complete with bar and refreshments (suitable for adults and 15+ children) with the usual frantic mother-of-the-bride & the relative who drinks too much - only it’s World Cup day 1966……. 60’s music, period details etc. You are invited as a wedding guest to Biggin Village Hall on Sunday 17th February at 7.30pm in your very best sixties ‘clobber’, no presents required, just a £10.00 ticket which is available from Mary at school or Janice on 01298 84907.**

**SELF-CARE-AWARE**

Self-care refers to the actions we take to recognise, treat and manage our own health. It’s about doing small, everyday things for yourself to keep healthy and happy – copy of leaflets sent home last week.

Community information

Message from **East Midland Trains** - engineering work affecting journeys on the Matlock and London line begins next week, as part of The Midland Main Line Upgrade. Journeys between Derby and Matlock will be replaced by bus services between 10th - 16th February while improvement works take place. Our London line will operate fewer services between Sheffield/Derby and London St Pancras, and a revised timetable will be in place. There will also be no direct East Midlands Trains services from Sheffield/Chesterfield to Derby. However, CrossCountry services will still be in operation. Learn more about how your journey will be impacted [**here**](http://reporting.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk/cgi-bin/rr/nobook:383776,nosent:85355,nosrep:49436/https:/www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk/AMB2019?utm_source=redeye&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Ambergate%2003_&utm_content=2019%2002%20Ambergate%20Blockade%20Feb). As always, we thank you in advance for your patience while we carry out these vital improvements.

Temporary timetable for our Nottingham - Derby - Matlock line. Valid from 10th February 2019 to 16th February 2019. [Download here](https://www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk/Global/Documents/AMB%20block%20timetable%20Feb19%20.pdf) - customers are advised to check their journey before they travel.

**Derbyshire Trading Standards Service has become aware of flyers being posted through doors advertising Memory Foam mattresses for sale. The flyer states a business is closing down and the mattresses are being sold at greatly reduced prices.** Mattresses sold in the UK must comply with safety regulations such that they are flame-resistant and must have a blue safety label permanently attached. With no way of tracing the seller, there is no way of checking whether the mattress is safe, and it has been known for false safety labels to be stitched in to look authentic. When selling goods at the door, the trader must, by law, provide customers with written confirmation that they have a 14-day cancellation period in which they are entitled to change their mind about the purchase, and how to obtain a refund. The trader must also provide their name and address. If the trader gives a company name and address, type those details into the internet using a tablet or smartphone to see if they exist. Derbyshire Trading Standards Service wishes to advise people to be wary of anyone offering goods in this way, as legitimate companies very rarely sell mattresses in this way. If you have any concerns or information about this matter you can call the **Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 04 05 06 or Derbyshire Police on 101.**

**Officers are issuing security advice to homeowners with external post boxes after a series of thefts in Derbyshire.** In recent months, a number of thefts from insecure post boxes have been reported. Post containing personal and financial information has been stolen, and documents used to apply for credit cards or loans. Because the post is intercepted fraudulently, victims often don’t realise they have been targeted. Fraudsters then apply for credit cards and loans in their names, and it can be many weeks before the crime is discovered. Derbyshire Constabulary’s Fraud and Protect officer, Tammy Barnes, said: “In recent months, we have seen a number of thefts from letter boxes across the county. “While the piles of junk mail may not be of interest to criminals, bank details certainly would be. Recently one of our officers visited a house with an external post box and was able to fit his hand inside and remove the mail. One of the letters was a personal medical record. Our advice to homeowners who have an external post box is to check if they are able to remove mail from inside and if so, give some consideration to making some changes. If you can do it then so can they!” Officers are proactively working on several lines of enquiry into the thefts, but there are measures that can be taken to make your post box more secure.

* Make sure your box is made of a robust material and is tamper-proof. It should have a secure locking mechanism, ideally with a coded security key.

* The box should also be fitted with a strong internal restrictor, which stops items being removed from the slot.

* Keep a look out if you are expecting a new bank card, or bank statement.

* Don’t leave mail uncollected for long periods of time; ideally check your post box every day.

If you suspect your mail has been stolen, or receive bills, invoices or receipts from companies you haven’t dealt with, contact Royal Mail immediately and report it to Derbyshire police, Action Fraud and the financial institution in question.

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