

17th November 2023

Dear Parents

Sickness – We have certainly been hit by sickness in the last few weeks with lots of staff and children being poorly (our attendance rate has gone from 97% to 95.75%). I have had my first vomiting and diarrhoea bug as an adult over the last week – a truly unpleasant experience and one I hope not to succumb to again. So as to contain any further spread of infection, please can all parents ensure they keep to our school policy (as recommended by the NHS) of keeping their child away from school for 48 hours from the last bout of any vomiting or diarrhoea. These bugs are very contagious and we must do what we can to protect each other from sickness. Whilst you must keep your child away if they have a temperature or are very poorly, don't keep them off for a bit of a cold/runny nose/cough if they are otherwise well.

Odd socks – There was an array of odd socks being worn in school on Monday to mark “anti-bullying” week. The message around the socks is to celebrate difference and each of us being unique – and that this is a cause for celebration and not harm. The term “bullying” can be easily mis-used. Bullying is when there is an action by an individual or group against another individual **Several Times On Purpose** (think of **STOP**). Children may not get on or like each other and there may be one-off incidents of unkindness, but this mustn't be confused with bullying. It is hard to prove that actions are intending to inflict harm with the youngest of children and so that is why education is so important, so children learn quickly the impact their actions may have. Children with autism, ADHD or other neurodiversities may act impulsively at times and not through deliberate unkindness and again, education plays a vital role here.

Christmas Disco – The staff are hosting a disco for all children after school on Friday 8th Dec until 4.30pm. Anyone already at after school club will automatically be included. A suggested donation of £4 is requested, to make your donation click on the link: <https://app.goodhub.com/kidschristmasdisco2023> (Gymnastics has stopped by then – I need to check about Terry's football & will confirm next week.)

Cross Country Competition – Congratulations to the ten children who took part in the inter-schools cross country competition at Forty Hall last Friday: Ellis Pizzi-Najada, Logan O'Keeffe, Michael Cosh, Luca Dawson, Seth Heatley, Hannah Connolly, Aoife Corbett, Sorcha Goodings, Sara Marengi and Holly Shammasian. The girls team came 2nd and the boys team came 4th! They did really well, especially in the muddy conditions! Congratulations to them all.

Donations of old football boots/shin pad/goalkeeping gloves – If you have any old football boots/pads/gloves you no longer need/want, would you consider donating them to the school? It would help **us to support children who would like to participate but don't have the kit. Many thanks**

Music lessons by Enfield Music Service (EMS) – Booking is now open to book lessons for January with a specialist music teacher from EMS. See flier attached. If your child is eligible for free school meals and you would like your child to learn an instrument, please email me headteacher@st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk If your child is already having lessons, you still have to book for lessons to continue in January, it doesn't happen automatically.

Diary Dates

Road Safety week next week – we will have some assemblies in school about this

Monday 20th – Non-uniform day in exchange for cash for Help for Hunger/Christmas Hamper Appeal or donate here https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/helpforhunger2023?utm_term=3a6A2X5vV

Monday 20th – extension to the deadline for the front cover of the Christmas Bazaar brochure competition

Monday 20th 7pm – Choir performing their first concert with Mr Charles-Nelson

Tuesday 21st 9.15am – Coffee morning in school – all welcome. How can we celebrate and learn about all our school community ethnicities, cultures and traditions? Come with ideas (or just for the tea/coffee/biscuits and a chat!!)

Tuesday 21st – 6Y retreat day – come to school at normal time in own clothes & with packed lunch (if bringing your own)

Wednesday 22nd – 6G retreat day – as above

Thursday 23rd 9.15am – Lynne's strings group performing in main school hall – parents of strings group please come and enjoy their performance

Friday 24th – non-uniform day in exchange for a bottle for the Bottle Tombola for the Christmas Bazaar. You can also, at any time, bring gifts for the “Elfridges” gift and wrapping room for the Christmas Bazaar

Friday 24th 1.30pm – Open Afternoon for prospective parents for Reception 2025. Call or email the office to book a place

Friday 1st Dec – non-uniform day in exchange for jars of sweets (no nuts) and home-made bakes/cakes

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards
Kate Baptiste, Headteacher