



## NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a good half term holiday. The festive season will soon be upon us!!

### COVID

Hopefully you will all have seen the letter sent out to all parents in Wakefield schools during the holiday. The guidance is asking for your support should a member of your household test positive. It is recommending that you keep your child off school unless they have been vaccinated. Please can I clarify the you need to **test the child 3 to 5 days AFTER the household member tested positive or showed symptoms NOT at the same time.** Following a negative result they can return to school.

To minimise the spread of COVID we are continuing to reduce the number of children accessing the hall during **lunchtime**. The children will alternate between having a hot dinner in the hall and a sandwich in the classroom.

Schools have been advised not to carry out face to face **Parent Consultations**, so our meetings will take place over the telephone. Just to remind you that the telephone call may come from a withheld number as staff may be using their own telephones.

We don't want the children to miss out on **Christmas** events at school so all will go ahead in a COVID safe way!

- Christmas Concerts will take place this year but will be recorded and sent out for you to watch in the comfort and the safety of your own home. Staff are desperately looking for someone who can assist with the recording of these events for us. Please contact the office if you are able to help – PLEASE!!
- The children will be watching a live on-line Pantomime in school. They will have a party in their year groups and a school Christmas dinner will be served.
- We are also holding a non-uniform day on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** in exchange for the children bringing in sweets or a bottle (ketchup, wine, pop, shampoo etc) for our Christmas Fayre prizes.
- The Christmas Fayre will go ahead for the children only. They will visit Father Christmas and play the games etc. More information will be sent out nearer the time.

### Sponsored Walk

The children love this event and the atmosphere throughout was uplifting! Please send any outstanding sponsor money into school as soon as possible. We have raised an amazing £2256.15 so far! Your generosity is much appreciated. This year we will be donating £200 to Young Minds (Hello Yellow Day) and the remaining money will go towards the new activity area we would like to create on the field.



### Remembrance Day

Poppies are on sale in school for 20p. Additional poppy related items are also on sale (bracelets, badges etc) up to a value of £2.00. The children can buy these at morning playtime.

### Reading at school and at home

Listening to your child read their reading book is very important if your child is going to grasp this very important skill for life. The vast majority of children at Dimple Well become successful readers and enjoy stories and books if school and home work in partnership.

As a result of some new Government guidance we are having to slightly change the way we teach phonics and reading within school. A letter will be coming out to you this week which will explain the changes and advise you on how best to support your child at home. We have had to spend nearly £7,000 (so far) on new resources and reading books so would ask that the books are well looked after and returned on the specified day so that they can be used by the next group of children. Any damaged or lost books will have to be paid for by parents.

### Clubs

This term we are able to offer the following after school clubs.

Day	Club	Open to children in	Timing
Monday	Football - please note that Football boots are NOT required	Class 3 - 6	3.15 - 4.15
Tuesday	Choir	Classes 1 - 6	3.15 - 4.00
Wednesday	Dance	Classes 1 - 6	3.15 - 4.15
	French	Classes 1 - 6	3.15 - 4.00
	Baking	Classes 5 - 6	3.15 - 4.30
Thursday	Taekwondo	Classes 1 - 6	3.15 - 4.00

Please fill in the tear off slip/separate flier and return to the class teacher with the appropriate money by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. **All clubs will start week commencing the 8<sup>th</sup> November.** Please presume your child has been allocated a place at the club, we will contact you if the club is over subscribed.

### Children in Need

We will be celebrating Children in Need on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November** by asking the children to wear something spotty and donate £1 to Charity.

### Questionnaire

Thank you for all those parents who have completed the questionnaires. If you still wish to share your views of Dimple Well please can you complete it by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. We will collate the results and feedback to you on our findings.

### Thank you

The Resource Centre has sent a huge 'thank you' to all those parents and children who contributed items to our Harvest Festival. The items will be gratefully received by families and individual accessing the food bank.

### Severe weather

Should we have severe weather conditions, necessitating **closure of the school** we will put a message out on Parent Hub and on the school website. <http://dimplewell.wakefield.sch.uk>

**It would be helpful if telephone calls to the school are kept to a minimum** as staff may be delayed getting to school. If the phone is not answered it does not necessarily mean we will be closed. Closure is rare and the decision not to open will only be taken if insufficient staff can reach school, without putting themselves at risk.

If the weather is bad during the school day, parents should use their discretion about coming to collect their children early. If conditions on local roads seem to be deteriorating we may start to telephone parents and ask them to collect their children.

If you are unable to collect your child at 3.10pm because of the weather, they will be cared for until someone picks them up. However, if possible, **please phone** to let us know you are delayed so that we can reassure your child that you are safe. As ever, our main concern will always be the safety of the children, parents and staff.

### **Governing Body Update**

The Governors have had three well attended meetings last half term. 2 new Parent Governors joined the team. The Resource Committee reviewed the school budget, which is on track, but is very tight and is being closely monitored.

The Standards and Pupils Committee had an in depth look the development plans for the school and agreed the priorities for the school.

The Full Governing Body highlights were the Headteacher's Report, which considered the Recovery Curriculum and Catch Up interventions, along with information being shared on the new phonic and reading programme.

An updated Governor Newsletter will be sent out shortly.

### **Dates for this half term:**

<b>Parents Evening</b>	Appointment letter coming out soon
<b>Remembrance Day</b>	<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November</b> Year 2 children visit Ossett Remembrance Service
<b>INSET Day</b>	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b> – school closed
<b>Children in Need</b>	<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November</b> (bring £1 and wear something spotty day)
<b>Non Uniform Days</b>	<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b> (bring sweets or a bottle for the Xmas Fayre)
<b>Christmas Fayre</b>	<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December (children only)</b>
<b>Christmas Jumper Day</b>	<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b> (bring £1 for Save the Children Fund)
<b>Christmas Dinner Day</b>	<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>Pantomime</b>	<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>Christmas Party</b>	<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> (come in party clothes)

School closes for Christmas on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December and re-opens again on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### **And finally .....**

Please can you ensure that all telephone numbers and contact details that are held in school are up to date. There have been a few occasions when we have had to contact parents and grandparents and we have been unable to do so the telephone numbers are no longer recognised or people have changed their place of work.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs H. E. Williams,  
Headteacher.