



Whole School Newsletter

November 2024

This month, ask your child...

... if they can practise respectful good manners for example - saying good morning, goodbye, please and thank you?

... if they would like to read a poem in our Winter Concert?

... what they know about anti-bullying (Anti-bullying week is next week!)?

... which trips they have been on? What connections to their topics and new learning did they discover?

Message from the Heads

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy yet brilliant first half of term, with the autumn leaves in full splendour across our site and beyond, and the children settling into new classes to form our wonderful community. The variety of learning experiences taking place in all our classes for Black History Month was really striking - from parent and author visits to online lessons led by the British Library - thank you to everyone who contributed.



November is the time in the school year when children enhance and expand their knowledge, exploring the curriculum inside the classroom and beyond, including more wonderful workshops and trips. You should start to see your child's understanding of their topics grow— why not quiz them using their EP Knowledge Organisers?

One of the most powerful things you can do as a parent is to chat to your child about their learning because this interrupts their forgetting, helping to grow that treasury of primary memories, which we aim for them to take with them wherever they go.



Continuing the theme of growing, our gardener, Bernadette, has worked with Year 3 and Year 4 this year to grow and harvest lots of vegetables. The Good To Grow Harvest-o-meter shows we have beaten our target to reach 180 meals - we have 201 meals so far with more to come!

This means that we have produced 16.11 kgs of food and saved £333.46 plus a huge amount of CO2. Nursery is harvesting artichokes so there should be more to come!

There's excitement around the upcoming EP traditions, such as the Winter Concert and the EP Variety Show. Below are the details, so you can encourage your child to practise song lyrics and perhaps consider stepping up to read a poem if they're interested. Thinking ahead, we usually say that children can wear a top in a Christmassy colour at the Concert and at the Christmas lunch. **Please** do not feel any pressure to buy something new, however. We would love to arrange a Christmas jumper swap box following on from our brilliant PTA idea of swapping outer-wear!



Next week is **Anti-bullying Week** - such a crucial time to raise awareness of behaviour, which impacts lives so profoundly. This year, the Anti-bullying Alliance has chosen the theme - **Choose Respect** - perfect for EP and our three rules of Ready, Respectful and Safe! Through assemblies, stories and lessons next week, children will be learning how we can work together to stop bullying behaviour and to build a world full of kindness and respect. **You can show support for this mission by wearing odd socks to school on Tuesday 12th November – it's Odd Socks Day!** Everyone in our school community should read

and understand our [Anti-Bullying Policy](#) which staff and children have written together. Our policy also has helpful links for parents and families to learn more about how to talk (and listen!) about bullying with children - Kidscape is a particularly great resource.

Key Information and dates for your diary

Odd Socks Day - Tuesday 12th November

Odd Socks Day supports **Anti-bullying week** and *we encourage all children to wear odd socks on **this day*** to represent our beautiful differences. It's a day to join together to show that it's ok to be different and to stand up against bullying and discrimination.



EP Disco, Friday 15th November, 6-8pm! Music, photo booth, food and a bar. Join the party in the hall. Entry is £3 adults and children can enter free. Children must be accompanied by an adult who will be responsible for them during the event and each adult should be responsible for no more than 2-3 children. Since this is a school event, all our normal rules apply and children should not have mobile phones.

Winter Concert poetry readers - if your child would like to audition to read at the Winter Concert please let the class teacher know by next Friday 15th November - with auditions held in the next two weeks with Sally, Natalie or Rosie. In previous years, this has mainly been children from the Juniors, but if there is a child in a younger year who feels confident learning a verse and speaking at the concert, please let class teachers know. We will hand out a selection of poems before the audition to learn a few lines from.

The EP Variety Show is held on the last day of this term, **December 20th**. Two acts are selected from each class and will perform in the variety show competition. Children can perform alone or with classmates. We welcome a wide range of acts - dance, music, comedy, magic and more! Class auditions take place in w/c 18th November - with class teachers arranging the best time for the children. Please check class newsletters for exact days.

Monday 25th November at 3:45pm - Everyone is welcome to join the PTA AGM. It is through this meeting that together we decide how the money you've raised at all the wonderful fundraising events is spent.



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Order your Christmas tree through EP

Here's your chance to raise money for EP and get a great Christmas tree from a sustainable source – and at a great price! Collect your tree from the EP playground on **Friday 6th December** at the Winter Fair.

Orders are taken by making payment through the usual [Scopay site](#) - simply choose the size and enter the £ amount and add it to basket. Alternatively with cash to the office. We then order against the list of payments made.

There are 4 sizes of tree and we also have 12" undecorated wreaths to order.

- **3ft – 4ft - £30**
- **5ft – 6ft - £50**
- **6ft – 7ft - £60**
- **7ft – 8ft £70**
- **12"Wreath (undecorated) £14**

To note that the trees do not come with a stand.

Last day to order: Wednesday 27th November by 4pm

Look out for **Christmas card** artwork sent home this week. Ordering details will be in class newsletters - return the card order form to the EP office by **9am Monday 11th November** (*ignore date printed on the form*).



Important dates

- Thursday 14th November, 4-6:30pm - Second session of **Parent and carer progress meetings**
- Friday 15th November - **Disco!**
- Friday 15th November - deadline for **Winter Variety Show entries**, in-class auditions the following week.
- Monday 25th November - **PTA AGM** after school
- Friday 29th November - **Stay and Play**
- Friday 6th December - **Winter Fair** - no Club EP or infant gym club on this day
- Wednesday 18th December, afternoon at Acland Burghley School - **Winter Concert (tbc)**
- Friday 20th December - **Winter Variety Show** and **last day of term**
- **Christmas Holidays** - Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January inclusive.
- Monday 6th January - **Spring Term begins**. To note that there is no Inset day

Snack Sales

On Fridays after school parents and carers host a snack sale in support of PTA fundraising. Each class takes a turn each term- please contribute when your turn comes around. The monies raised from these small sales really add up across the year. Thank you!

- 8th November Year 2
- 15th November Year 1
- 22nd November Reception
- 29th November Nursery

