

Charnwood Primary School

Parents Newsletter

November - December 2021

As we come to the end of another busy term, I hope, like the staff and children, you are looking forward to a very well-deserved rest and time to spend with loved ones during this seasonal holiday. The children and staff have once again demonstrated a great deal of resilience during a challenging term. Despite this the staff and children have engaged in some very exciting projects and learning experiences this term. You will find a summary of what has been happening at school in this newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for your overwhelming support during this turbulent and challenging term. Due to the rise in Covid cases and the new Omicron variant, we were unable to invite parents into school for various events. Your support and understanding during this time was very much appreciated.

On behalf of all the staff and Governors I wish everyone celebrating a Merry Christmas. Wishing you all a safe and restful break and a very Happy New Year.

I look forward to welcoming our children back to school on **Wednesday, 05 January 2022**.

Ms Jassat

Covid Update

The government have announced the increased mitigations that are needed to be in place to delay the spread of the Omicron variant. We will continue to update our risk assessment in line with government guidance. New restrictions are being put in place from next week and this is how it will affect schools from now and in the new term:

Face Coverings – Staff and visitors will wear face coverings in all communal areas, unless exempt. Pupils and staff will not wear face coverings in classrooms, unless it is advised to do so by the Director of Public Health.

Covid Testing – The government strongly encourages parents, carers and visitors to take a lateral flow test (LFT) before they enter the school.

Contact with a positive Omicron Case - You do not have to isolate if you have come in contact with someone who has tested positive with the Omicron variant as long as you complete daily Lateral Flow Testing.

Visitors in school – We will be limiting visitors on the school site where possible.

Year Group News and Events

We have had many exciting activities and events happening across the school this term so here is a summary of the exciting things the children have been learning:

Foundation Stage Nativity

Our Foundation Stage children still performed the annual nativity assembly to the year groups in school. It is always a pleasure to watch our youngest children perform and develop such confidence as they re-enact the nativity. A photo of the performance will be published in the Leicester Mercury on Friday, 17 December 2021. Copies of the Leicester Mercury can be purchased from your local newsagent shops.



Year 3 Faith Assembly

This term, the Year 3 pupils all took part in a Sikhism Assembly linked to their R.E topic. Our stars took to the stage to put on a fantastic assembly to show their acting, singing and dancing skills for the school and families. The assembly also showcased all the Oracy activities that have been carried out in the classroom. For example, the children did an excellent job of projecting their voice so the audience will all hear. The performance was a huge success. Thank you so much to everyone who attended and supported our children.

Year 4

This term, the Year 4 visited the Synagogue on Tuesday, 09 November 2021. They enjoyed taking a tour of the Synagogue and investigated 'mystery objects' which related to the Jewish way of life and significant festivals.

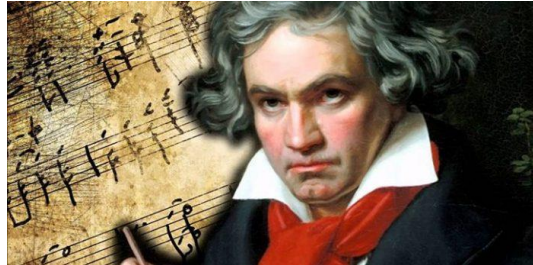


Year 5

This term, the Year 5 children were given the opportunity to showcase what they learned in R.E about Hinduism. They presented their Hinduism assembly to the school children, staff and our parents. It was a show comprising of singing, dancing and a celebration of the Hindu faith. It was lovely to have the parents back in school. Thank you to all our parents for supporting our children through all areas of the curriculum.

Music at Charnwood

Every term a new composer is shared with the children to broaden their knowledge of musical styles, genres and history. In class and during assemblies, the children listen to music that enhances their knowledge of composers. Our composer of the term is Ludwig Van Beethoven. Beethoven is one of the most influential and significant composers of all time. His best-known works are his 5th and 9th Symphony, Piano Sonata and Fur Elise.



Leicestershire Music

Leicestershire Music have bands, orchestras & choirs for young people from beginner to advanced level, meeting on a weekly basis.

Please find their flyer with more details attached with this newsletter.

History at Charnwood

Charnwood Primary School commemorated Remembrance Day by wearing red and participating in a 2-minute silence at 11 o'clock. Thank you for your donations for the Royal British Legion charity.



Pupils from Year 6 Redwood went on a WW1 Peace tour at University of Leicester. They enjoyed learning about the soldiers that fought in the war and how peace was restored.



Have you ever held the moon? ... Some of our children have!

In the week beginning Monday, 01 November 2021, our children held pieces of the moon in their hands! As a school we were privileged to have lunar samples, including a rare collection of meteorites and moon rocks in our school. The collection was provided by the Science and Technology Facilities Council, as part of the "Borrow the Moon" scheme. While much of the lunar material brought back by NASA is used for scientific research, small quantities have been allocated to form educational packages for schools, with the aim to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

This opportunity to be so close to samples from the actual moon was an exhilarating experience for our children and staff. Due to the precious nature of the lunar samples we were not able to make its presence in the school known to the public until it was safely returned.

These experiences really brought science alive at Charnwood!



Looking after our Environment

Pollination Project and visit to Melbourne Street Community Gardens

Mrs N Platt and some of the Year 5 and 6 children have been involved in the project, "Pollination for the next generation", which is funded by "Learning through Landscapes". Children have been learning about pollinating insects and their importance to our environment and how we can encourage and incorporate pollination into our own school grounds. The children have also visited our local community garden on Melbourne Street, where they have worked alongside members of the local community to learn about pollination, and helped to plant shrubs, herbs and flowering plants. The children showcased their learning about eco-systems and the importance of pollination to their parents during a celebration event.



Eco-Schools COP26 Roadshow

Mrs N Platt (Eco Co-ordinator) along with some members of the school council and Eco-representatives attended the Leicester City annual Eco Roadshow at Moat Community College. They participated in workshops which helped them to understand the impact that climate change has on our planet.



Anti-Bullying Week

During anti-bullying week, we identified acts of kindness that occur on a daily basis in our school. Our children are always kind and caring and during this week they really shone in showing kindness to others.

Children in Need – non uniform fundraising

Our school supported the BBC's national Children in Need campaign through participating in the 'Big Fun Children in Need' Day.

Pupils came in wearing something that made them feel happy on **Friday, 19 November 2021**.



Special time at Charnwood

At Charnwood we aim to promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of our pupils through our curriculum. In addition to this, children are given a daily opportunity through moments of quiet reflection, known as 'Special Time', based on weekly themes. Our Special Time themes this term have been as follows:

- Kindness
- Good over Evil
 - Sacrifice
 - Unity
 - Patience
 - Empathy
- Our Rights
 - Joy
 - Rejoice

Books4Home Leicester Project

The Rotary Club of Leicester is launching Rotary's Books4Homes project in Leicester to help children in our local area. The Rotary Club have kindly donated books to the most deprived pupils in our school so that they will have their own books at home. We will be prioritising our children in receipt of Pupil Premium and Free School Meals. We are very grateful to the Rotary Club and we hope to invite members of the Rotary club into school when Covid restrictions are lifted.



Staff leaving/new staff joining

This term we say goodbye to Mrs R Fletcher. We thank her for all her hard work in leading KS1 and raising the profile of reading at Charnwood. We wish her well for the future. We welcome Mrs S Patel as the KS1 Phase Leader and Year 2 teacher.

Mrs R Jameel will be starting her maternity leave in the Spring term. We welcome Mrs S Vantra as the maternity cover teacher.

Parent Governors

We are pleased to announce that following the Parent Governor Election vote count on Monday, 29 November 2021, Mr Tahir Abowath and Mr Mohammed Khalid Arif have been elected as Parent Governors. We welcome them to our Governing Body.

Thank you for sending in your votes.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme Winter 2021

Children and young people who receive Free School Meals can take part in the Leicester City Council's free holiday activities and food programme over the winter holidays.

The sessions will include a variety of activities, such as art, sport and music and a healthy meal will be provided each day your child attends.

Please find their flyer with more details attached with this newsletter.

Vacancies

We have the following vacancies available at our school:

- Level 3 Teaching Assistant (maternity cover) vacancy
- Two Co-Opted Governors vacancies

Please visit the Eteach website for more information on <https://www.eteach.com>

Attendance

The whole school attendance for this year to date is: 93.6%

Our School attendance target figure is 95.2 %, so as you can see so far we have not met our target.

Well done to 5 Sycamore for having the highest attendance of 95.4% between November and December.

Please visit our school website for further information about attendance:

<http://charnwood.leicester.sch.uk>

Please could parents inform the office before 9.00am if your child has an appointment and will be absent or is arriving late by calling the school office on **0116 251 6574**

If your child is going to be absent for any other reason, please contact the school office and provide sufficient information about their absence.

If your child is going to be absent for reasons relating to coronavirus, please inform the school office.

Teachers 2 Parents Texting Service

If you wish to send a text message to the school please use the following number:-

07786 208 889

Keeping your child safe over the Festive holidays

As a parent or carer you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online at home. The following websites contain excellent links and advice on how to keep your child safe and help support your child to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively.

- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Have a conversation

It is really important to talk with your children on an ongoing basis about staying safe online. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter suggestions can help.

Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.

What games do you and your friends like to play online? Can you show me the websites you visit the most? Shall we play your favourite game online together?

Ask them about how they stay safe online.

What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?

Ask them if they know where to go for help.

Where can they go to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use?

Think about how you each use the internet.

What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

End of Term

The last day of term will be **Friday, 17 December 2021**. We look forward to seeing all the children back at school on **Wednesday, 05 January 2022**.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

