

From Mrs Bateman

Celebrating our Differences

In our Monday assembly this week we considered how each and every one of us is unique and how this makes life interesting and our world so wonderful. We also considered how sad it was when people use differences as a reason to be unkind, whatever the reason. This led us into thinking about discrimination of various kinds and considered real examples such as male and female newsreaders being paid differently, the way disabled people used to be kept in hospitals in the past, how Jewish people were forced to wear stars on their clothing and about the racist abuse against a girl at university in Nottingham only last week. We acknowledged that all of these things were wrong and should not happen anywhere, but especially not in our school. This assembly was then reinforced in every year group allowing children to discuss how they should respond if ever they were aware that such things were happening. In our prayer we thanked God for all our differences in school and reflected on the analogy of when you combine different ingredients in a recipe, you can create something wonderful, therefore, when we all come together in school we have the potential to make something even more wonderful.

Online Safety

This continues to be a hot topic as children access apps, games and content on the internet outside school that are not age appropriate. We then witness the implications of this in school. As patience is our value this month, I have spoken to many children about the reasons why they need to be patient and to wait until they are the right age to use certain apps or to play certain games on their various devices. As parents, it can be a challenge to keep track of your child's online activity and to feel confident that what they are accessing is age and content appropriate. You may want to check that you have 'Parental Controls' set on the devices that your children have access to. If not, I urge you to do so but you may want to check the search history to reassure yourself that your child has not accessed anything that is inappropriate.

Volunteers

Thank you for those of you who have volunteered to come and help us in school. We will run an induction session in the not too distant future so if you are still considering volunteering, can I urge you to complete a form soon so that you can be included in the induction session.

<http://longdittonstmarysschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/School-Volunteer-Procedure-1-1.pdf>



**But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit
In us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness....**

Paul's letter to the Galatians, Chapter 5, verse 22

Craft Fair

Some girls from Kendal Class are running a Craft Stall at the end of the school day on Tuesday 27th March. They have been busy making a range of items which they will be selling to raise money for the school. Prices will range from 50p - £1.50. Please support these girls with their initiative.

Second Hand Uniform

Unfortunately, we will no longer be holding a stock of second hand uniform due to a lack of storage. We will therefore be selling off all current stock on Tuesday 27th March alongside the Craft Stall. Items will be £2.00 per item, so please do stock up on those spare jumpers and fleeces!

Easter Service

Our end of term Easter Service will take place at St Mary's Church at 10am on Wednesday 28th March – the day before we break up on the 29th. It would be lovely if you could join us on this occasion.

Parent Consultation Meetings

To help us keep to timings, these appointments last up to 10 minutes, so if you feel you need longer with your child's class teacher, please make another appointment on an alternative day.

Book Fair

The Book Fair will be on as usual during Parent Consultations. Please support us in this, as it helps us to restock our library using the commission earned and to keep it up to date.

New Lunchtime Football Club for Girls

There is a new lunchtime football club for girls starting on Monday. Any girls wishing to join, please meet Coach Parry on the school playground with your trainers on.

Year 6 Boys Football

Year 6 boy's football team had a fantastic 4-3 win against Hinchley Wood Primary on Wednesday afternoon. This ensures that the team have finished top of their league and will progress to play St Andrew's in the semi-final next week.

A reminder ...

Just a reminder that we discourage children from bringing toys in from home, as things have gone missing and have been broken in the past. "Slime" is very popular amongst the children at the moment but please do not allow your children to bring it into school, as it is inappropriate.

School Dinners

Dinner money for the Summer Term is £146.25. These can be paid termly or weekly on Scopay. 1st half of the Summer term is £67.50 (£60.75 if your child is going to Hindleap Warren) and the 2nd half of the term is £78.75 (11.25 per week). Please make sure that these are paid by the 1st day of term and that your dinner account remains in credit. Alerts can be set on Scopay to inform you when balances are getting low.

Please also make sure that you inform the office in writing, if your child wishes to change from dinners to a packed lunch or vice versa. A week's notice in writing MUST be given to the school office.

Birthday Books

Thank You and Happy Birthday to Oliver R (Pendragon) and Zahara S (Pendragon) who have bought a book for the Library to mark their birthdays. These will be enjoyed by all the children. To join this scheme, simply send £3 in a named envelope marked 'Birthday Book' and the office will show them the books and book plates to choose from.

Dates . . .

Value for March – Patience

Thurs 15 th March	Friends Chocolate Bingo
Fri 16 th March	Mad as a March Hair Day! £1 donation
Tue 20 th March	Year 6 to Esher Common
Wed 21 st March	Year 5 to Littleworth Common
Thurs 22 nd March	Parent Consultations (to be booked online via Scopay) and Book Fair
Fri 23 rd March	9am Music Assembly
Mon 26 th – Thurs 29 th March	Year 6 Bikeability Course
Wed 28 th March	10am End of Term Church Service
Wed 28 th March	Year 3 to Rose Theatre (George's Marvellous Medicine)
Thurs 29 th March	Last Day of Term. School Finishes at 1.45pm
Fri 25 th May	INSET DAY
Mon 28 th May – Fri 1 st June	HALF TERM

Class Assemblies

Before Easter	After Easter
	20 th April – Skipton
	27 th April - Bodiam
16 th March - Kendal	4 th May - Hornby
	11 th May - Durham
	18 th May - Pendragon