

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to everyone across the school community to the second half of the Autumn Term and the build up to Christmas. I am relieved to say that the building works have just about gone to schedule and all of the asbestos related work was completed in good time. We have additional problems with brickwork and pipework that require further attention before we can look to lay the new joists and floors and essentially put everything back together again, so we have some disruption ahead but nothing that we can't cope with. At 8.55 yesterday morning we had no water supply to the school at all, so that was cutting it a bit too fine - the taps were flowing by 9.00, just in time!

We are celebrating Mass tomorrow at 09.30 in the hall and everyone is welcome to attend. This is not the first time that Father Weymes has selected Halloween for a school Mass but it's the closest we can get to All Saints Day on November 1st given his other commitments across the wider Parish.

There will be a special Y6 Remembrance Day Assembly on Monday 12th of November at 10.40 - Y6 parents / carers are invited to gather in time for the start. The centenary of the end of the First World War is something that we need to both celebrate and reflect upon and I'm sure that the children will help us to remember the great sacrifices that were made by so many all over the world prior to the conclusion of the "War to end all wars" . Sadly this proved to be a dream that we are no nearer achieving given the conflicts since and at the present time. The conflict in Yemen is particularly disturbing at the minute and we keep the Yemini people in our prayers - many South Shields folk have connections to Yemen as some of our first immigrant families hailed from that part of the world.

The school will again be supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal and poppies are on sale across the school for a donation of 50p.

Looking ahead, the school nurse and her team are scheduled to visit on Monday November 19th for the Flu immunisation. This is not an injection and no needles are involved so there is nothing to be concerned about on that front. It is a Monday morning so not the best time really as it is generally very busy but each class will attend in turn across the morning and the school nurse is confident that everyone will have been seen before the morning is out.

Staff attended a special Asthma and Anaphylaxis training yesterday evening after school as we look to be in a position to respond effectively to these life threatening situations that can arise on occasion. As a result we may be contacting a number of parents / carers to make sure that all medication held in school is up to date as some are close to the "use by" dates. Every child with an inhaler should have one easily accessible at all times and held in the classroom with another, emergency inhaler held in the medical cupboard for emergencies. Occasionally these go out of date and need to be replaced. Ideally we would like two in date inhalers ready and available at all times. The Volumatic Spacer device should either be the larger clear plastic model or the

newer, smaller blue model. The nurse advised that the yellow, partial face mask models are not really suitable for school age children and some may still be being issued as part of repeat prescriptions over time. We have a number of these in school and though we have emergency Volumatics and Inhalers it is always better that individual children have their own.

Please contact Mrs Rochford if you would like to check what we do hold for your child following this polite reminder that inhalers need to be up to date. We know that there is a nationwide shortage of Epi-pens at the minute and we are aware that we can still use some models for a period after the use by date displayed. The school Nurse suggested that the shortage should be over before the end of the year - hopefully sooner as it has been a very worrying time for parents whose children are at risk.

Thank you for your cooperation in this and all other matters.

Best Wishes.

Yours sincerely,

K J Smithson.

Head Teacher.