

## Autumn Term 2—Week beginning 16th November 2020

Well, the weeks seem to be flying by and before we know it, it will be Christmas! As a school, we always want to make the build up to Christmas time as special as we can. In these uncertain times, it feels more important than ever!

We are really enjoying reading our whole-school Christmas story and you can find out more about this if you read on. We sadly won't be able to do the usual Christmas performances or whole-school celebrations, but we still have some Covid-safe plans which will enable us to build excitement and celebrate with our pupils nonetheless.

We recently wrapped filming on our promotional video for Sutton Park Primary. You may have seen a short, 40 second teaser for this on our website and Twitter page. A longer version will follow shortly and we are excited to share this with you. Reception admissions for September 2021 are now open and we hope to see an increase in the number of pupils applying to join us. Please spread the news far and wide about our lovely school with anyone you know looking to apply.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you from me and all of the team for your ongoing support and positivity at this time. We really appreciate it. #AllInThisTogether

*Mrs Middleton, Head of School*

### Supporting our families during challenging times:

We know that Covid is having a huge impact on many families in lots of different ways.

School are here to help in any way that we can so please do reach out and speak to us if you are struggling.

We have contacts with several local foodbanks and can signpost other services/support available if you are experiencing any difficulties at this uncertain time.



Erdington Foodbank Six Ways Baptist Church Wood End Rd, Erdington Birmingham B24 8AD	07474 683927 <a href="mailto:wunnay@btinternet.com">wunnay@btinternet.com</a>	Thurs 12.00 – 14.00
George Road Baptist Church George Road Erdington B23 7RZ	07474 683927 <a href="mailto:wunnay@btinternet.com">wunnay@btinternet.com</a>	Tues 12.00 – 14.00
Great Barr Foodbank St Bernard's Church Broome Ave, Birmingham B43 5AL	0121 357 5399 <a href="mailto:info@greatbarr.foodbank.org.uk">info@greatbarr.foodbank.org.uk</a>	Fri 12.00 – 15.00
Elm Life Church Foodbank, Kioestanding	Requests for food parcels can be made on a Wednesday on 0121 350 9650	Delivery of parcels on Thursday

### Birmingham Children's Partnership – Resources

**Family Connect:** provide family support, give advice and guidance including linking to food banks, connect families to the professionals who can support them and coordinate the help, support early help assessments, connect families into the local community resources to help families to be more resilient, and give small grants for emergency food assistance.

Application form is found on [www.birmingham.gov.uk/Covid19CYPF](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/Covid19CYPF)

### Our new school minibus:

We are extremely lucky to now be the proud owners of our very own SP minibus! This was purchased with the remaining grant money from the Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust. We are so grateful for this investment in our pupils' learning experiences. Having our own minibus will open up many extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities for them, including: attending competitive sports events, visiting local areas/attractions and participating in enrichment opportunities across our PACT schools.



### Friday close:

As stated in my earlier letter, we will continue to close on Friday afternoons at 1pm for the duration of this lockdown period. Pupils should be collected between 1 and 1:10pm from their usual House playgrounds. Children who are staying for Enrichment Club should have a booked place (via the [enquiry@](mailto:enquiry@) email address). This additional control measure has been put in place to reduce the number of adults pupils were having contact with across the school week, whilst ensuring all teachers still receive their allocated PPA time. It has been overwhelmingly popular with our parent community. We have received lots of positive comments about the additional time gained as a family and the positive effects this has had on weekend time too.



### Children In Need fundraising:

Thank you to all of our school community for your engagement with Children in Need last week. We had lots of fun in school: completing the daily mile and an outdoor workout with our very own Joe Wicks (Mr Jay) It was wonderful to see the children dressed up in spots and Pudsey-themed outfits.



Our final fundraising total was  
**£248.60**  
Thank you!

- BELIEVE - INSPIRE - ACHIEVE -

**Behaviour and positive rewards:**

Although we cannot come together in the school hall for our usual assemblies, we are continuing to celebrate and promote positive behaviours

across school. House assemblies have been taking place all year with ‘star of the week’ awards and medals continuing to be awarded. Some special Headteacher Awards have also been given out - some to whole classes for their achievements and some to individuals who have shone!

We are very proud of all of our pupils for how they have settled back into school and the resilience shown in adapting to new processes and procedures. Take a look at the table below for all of the positive rewards issued since September:



Reward:	Awarded since September:
Postcards	168
Star certificates	101
Medals	61

**Using our new library and play equipment:**

We are really keen to get these new, exciting areas open for our pupils to access and use. Covid-19 makes this more challenging than usual as we need to make time for quarantining or cleaning of all equipment and resources before they can be used by a different bubble of children. This is all part of



the recommendations for reducing the risks associated with Covid-19. We have created rotas, in line with DFE and PHE guidance, that will allow all classes some time in both the library and on outdoor play equipment before we break up for Christmas. The children have been so patient waiting for this opportunity - I am sure they will really enjoy themselves!



**The Christmasaurus:**

Our whole-school reading project is based on this story, written by Tom Fletcher. It is a longer text but suitable for all ages and all classes are reading a chapter a day in the countdown to Christmas. We’ve timed this perfectly so that all children will hear the final chapter on our last day of school before the Christmas break.

‘The Christmasaurus’ centres around a child called William Trundle and a very special dinosaur discovered in the North Pole by Santa’s elves. It

is a story that celebrates being different, persevering when things aren’t easy and believing in the things that matter to you.

It will inspire lots of learning and activities during the build up to Christmas and we look forward to sharing these via our school Twitter page.



**Staff news:**

Now that they have shared the news with their classes and reached important milestones in their pregnancies, we would like to congratulate both Miss Nock and Miss Archer on their happy news. They are both due to have their babies in April and are very excited about this chapter in their lives. Parents of children in these classes please be assured that we will of course ensure that the transition for pupils is as smooth as possible and that a consistent teacher is available to cover their respective maternity leaves.



Mrs Akhtar (3AMB) will sadly not be returning to Sutton Park Primary following her long-term absence. We wish her well for the future and thank her for her work at our school over the past six years. We will now begin the process of recruiting someone to fulfil her part-time teaching role. In the meantime, we will continue to use a consistent supply teacher for this half term (Mrs Blake) and Mrs Msanide-Brookes will continue to teach the class too.

**Christmas plans:**

**Friday 11th December**—Christmas Jumper Day (Please do not go out and purchase jumpers unnecessarily, any festive/red clothing is great. Staff will be donating to ‘Save The Children’, any donations from families are also welcome, but not expected. We will have collection buckets on each playground in the morning)

**Monday 14th December**—Date to bring in any party food for class parties. This needs to be individually wrapped e.g. multipack crisps, mini bags of sweets, wrapped cake bars. It will be quarantined for 3 days to ensure we are Covid-compliant.

**Thursday 17th December**—Christmas Party Day. Children can wear Christmas/party clothes all day.

**Friday 18th December**—Break up for the Christmas holidays. School closes to ALL pupils and staff at 1pm.

