

Weekly Update 9.12.22

Excitement is mounting as we approach the last week of the Autumn Term – the ‘glitter and glue season’ is definitely in full swing. The children have been busy baking, putting into action their plans to provide tasty treats for members of our community using the money raised at our Harvest Service.

NATIVITY

Rocket Class are working particularly hard on their Nativity which is due to take place in the Methodist Chapel on **Tuesday 13th December**. There will be two performances at **10am and 2pm**. The Friends PTA group has kindly offered to organise refreshments back at school following the afternoon performance.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

As you will have read in the news in the past few days, instances of scarlet fever are on the rise across the country. At this time of the year, we often experience high levels of colds, coughs and sore throats in school and this year is no different; at present we do have a number of children who are suffering from these.

We would ask that parents remain vigilant around these symptoms as these are similar to those that present in bacterial tonsillitis and scarlet fever. If you are concerned in any way about your child's health or symptoms they present, please contact NHS111 or your doctor. Please also see links below to the relevant NHS page for further information.

[Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment - GOV.UK \(\[www.gov.uk\]\(https://www.gov.uk\)\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-and-treatment)

[Tonsillitis - NHS \(\[www.nhs.uk\]\(https://www.nhs.uk\)\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/tonsillitis/)

Cleaning and hygiene protocols continue in school as normal. Please note, scarlet fever is a notifiable disease so this should be reported to school for action.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ripon City of Sanctuary has been asked by NYCC to help collect school uniforms for asylum-seeker children in the county.

There are two ways people can help:

- Donate quality second-hand uniforms – all the info on our [webpage](#)

- Donate money towards new school shoes – via our [JustGiving page](#).

They would be very grateful for any support you can offer.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Are you looking for inspiration for Christmas presents? If you are looking for ideas and/or guidance on which books to buy for children, you might find this website useful:

[BooksForTopics: Best Books by Year Group](#) (sorted by age group)

[BooksForTopics: Branching Out Booklists](#) (for children who have been hooked by a particular author)

[Book list - Books for Christmas \(booksfortopics.com\)](#) (Christmas books)

Of course, we know that devices and video games may also feature on children's Christmas lists and that this can present a bit of a minefield for parents! 'Internet Matters' has produced a great guide to help parents make decisions, including age-specific games in which families can play together:

[Guide to Unique and Amazing Video Games | Internet Matters](#)

LOOKING AHEAD...

We are pleased to let you know that it will be the turn of Rocket Class (Reception, Y1 & Y2) to take part in weekly swimming sessions on Wednesday afternoons in the Spring Term. The balance for this can be paid via Parent Pay. This covers both the swimming sessions and transport to and from the pool.

Children will need:

Swim cap (more info to follow)

One-piece costume for girls and trunks for boys (no baggy board shorts please)

Towel

Goggles (optional)

Longer hair tied up

Forest School sessions will continue for our Nursery children and also for Asteroid Class.

Can you help? We are always grateful for offers of help with both swimming and forest school sessions. Please do let us know if you have some spare time on Wednesday afternoons and would like to volunteer.

CLUBS FOR THE SPRING TERM

We are pleased to offer the following clubs for the Spring Term:

Monday 3.30 – 4pm – Open library session with Mrs Court

Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30 – Drama Club for KS2 in conjunction with Harrogate Theatre!

Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30 – Sports Cool (book directly with Chris)

Thursday 3.30 – 4.30 Science Club with Mrs Cornforth

Please see the separate email to follow for further information and details of a new booking system for these clubs and our usual wrap-around care.

RECEPTION STARTERS 2023:

If your child was born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 they are due to start primary school in September 2023. The deadline for applications is **15 January 2023**.

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 11th December 9.30am: All-age worship at St Nicholas Church

Tuesday 13th December 10am and 2pm: Nativity Service at the Methodist Church

Wednesday 14th December: Christmas Lunch/Jumper Day

Thursday 15th December 9.15am: Carols Round the Tree – parents and carers are invited to join the children in school for a celebration as the term draws to a close.

Thursday 15th December 10.30am: Rocket Class to visit St Nicholas Church to decorate the tree for Christmas.

Friday 16th December 2pm: Break up for Christmas. Please note the earlier finish time.

Saturday 17th December 2.30 – 4pm: West Tanfield Methodist Church invite everyone to join them at the Methodist Church Schoolroom for Christmas crafts, drinks, cakes and chat. All ages welcome!

Sunday 18th December 10.30am: Carol Service in the Methodist Church

Tuesday 20th December 6.30pm: Carol Service at St Nicholas Church

Wishing all our families a lovely weekend.