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Our **Value of the Month** for November is **FRIENDSHIP**



Newsletter – November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Parent Governor Vacancies

Following the recent ballot for parent governor, the two successful candidates are Mrs Karin Laybourne and Mr Anthony French. We look forward to working with Mr French and following induction, will support him to develop into this strategic role within our school. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Laybourne back as a parent governor following her previous term in office. At the end of her previous 4 years she and was a key part in our Ofsted inspection where governance was noted as 'strong'.

Swimming Lessons – Year 5



Just a reminder that swimming lessons continue after half term. Children are required to bring in a swimming costume, cap and towel each Monday for their lesson. A letter has been sent out but if you have any questions please contact the office.

Swimming begins on Monday 4th November for Year 5. Lessons are as follows:

Autumn term 2	Spring term 1	Spring term 2	Summer term 1	Summer term 2
Year 5	Year 4	Year 3	Year 3	Year 6

Remembrance Day Poppies on Sale



This week we will be selling poppies to mark Remembrance Day and all donations are appreciated. Members of the School Council will be selling them and all donations go to the British Legion. We will be sending two members of our School Council with a member of staff to represent school at the Cenotaph at Shiney Row at the Remembrance Service to lay a wreath.

Music Mark



We are pleased to announce that Durham County Council have awarded us the Music Mark. This is in recognition of a commitment to providing high quality music education for all children. We were very pleased to receive this as it reflects the hard work and dedication that pupils put into their music. We continue to offer a range of musical experiences for example ukulele, guitar and violin as we know from listening to children how much they enjoy this.

PSQM Award



For the last 3 years we have held the Primary Science Quality Mark Gold Award and it is now time to re-apply. Mr Seaton as Science Co-ordinator is looking forward to collating the evidence that will be gathered across this year. We have developed our Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths significantly and this was noted in our recent Ofsted. Gaining this accreditation again would be a wonderful way to acknowledge the skills and knowledge the children have. Mr Seaton will work closely with children, staff and our link Science governors during the year.

Rights Respecting Award



Miss Hartley, our PSHE Co-ordinator, is re-applying for our Rights Respecting Award as we have held this for the past 3 years and it is due to expire. The aim of Unicef's RRSa is to improve children's health and happiness, help children feel safe, have better relationships and for children to become active and involved in school life and the wider world. She has been gathering ideas and opinions from pupils through our elected School Councillors and also leading staff training to ensure that gaining pupil voice is done in lots of ways.

Primary Geography Quality Mark Award



This year we will be applying for the Primary Geography Quality Mark. Mrs Kershaw as our Geography Co-ordinator will lead on this award which is new for our school. The PGQM celebrates achievements, encourages creative and critical thinking and

support pupils to become responsible global citizens. Mrs Kershaw will work closely with children, staff and our link Geography governor during the year.

Attendance Support

Our Attendance Policy sets out how we can support pupils to attend school to ensure they get the very best out of their education. This policy is available on our website or parents can request a paper copy from the school office. Our *minimum* attendance target for each child is 96% and we continue to undertake regular monitoring to support our pupils to achieve this.

If you require any additional support then please speak to Mrs Snowdon or Mrs Donnelly (Parent Support Advisor) who can guide you to services which can support getting your child into school. Our attendance from the start of term in September to 24th October is currently 96.71% and we continue to work with families and outside agencies to maintain and improve this.

Anti-Bullying Week 11th to 15th November



The theme for this year is 'Change Starts With Us' where the Anti-Bullying alliance aim to think of what we can do to create a better world. We will be supporting this campaign on the week beginning Monday 11th November with a range of activities focusing on the theme of bullying. The week ends with the national day of 'Friendship Friday' encouraging everyone to see they have a role to play in creating a world that is friendlier and kinder.

Children in Need – Friday 15th November



School Council have met with Miss Hartley and have been discussing Children in Need. As always we will be supporting this important cause and welcome your donations. We hope that all children dress up for the day on Friday 15th November and the theme the School Council have chosen is 'crazy hair day' in school! We look forward to seeing the wacky hairstyles or headwear that children come in.

Parents' Evening

Autumn term Parents' Evenings are on Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th November. A text message will be coming out this week so you can arrange an appointment on-line to see your child's class teacher and view your child's work from the Autumn term.

Class Assembly



Many thanks to Miss Purdy and Year 3/4 for a fabulous class assembly last half term about The Stone Age. The children showed off their many talents when they presented and sang. They made a great team and worked extremely well together to produce a fascinating and informative assembly. We look forward to our next class assembly which will be on Thursday 6th February and presented by Year 2.

Red Team Winners



Last half term the team who were awarded the most stars for excellent work and positive attitude was Red Team. This meant they could come to school on the last day in non-uniform, which was the treat suggested by former School Councillors. Congratulations go to Red Team. Stars have already been handed out this term and this goes to show the hard working attitude of all our pupils in school. Keep it up teams!

4 November	School reopens at 9.00am
7 November	School photographs
21 November	Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 Flu vaccine
22 November	Staff Development Day. School closed to pupils.
25 November	Parents' Evening
26 November	Parents' Evening
4 December	Christmas Fair
13 December	Christmas Jumper Day for charity
16 December	Nursery Christmas show
17 December	Grandparents' Christmas show (pm)
18 December	Infant Christmas lunch and show (am)
19 December	Junior Christmas lunch and show (am)
20 December	Pantomime in school - please note this is a non-uniform day
20 December	School closes for Christmas holidays at 3.15pm
6 January	School reopens for pupils at 9.00am
School will be closed on Friday 22nd November for our staff training day. We re-open on Monday 25th November 2019	

Yours sincerely, Mrs L A Snowdon (Headteacher)