

Tividale Community Primary School

Newsletter November 2017



Thank you...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for your support so far this year. We have had a great start to the new school year and all the children have settled into their new classes really well. We have already had some fantastic homework projects sent in this term and we are currently ensuring that there are a number of areas around school to display some of them so that they are on view for all visitors to school to see to excellent quality of the projects. We have also had some excellent and well-attended assemblies and festivals. I really appreciate your support in remembering not to take photographs during these shows.

Thank you also to the Key Stage 2 parents in particular for your co-operation in collecting your children from the Key Stage 2 playground, and your patience in waiting behind the yellow gates until a member of staff open them. This new system is working really well and we have had many positive comments from parents.



Parking...

Thank you to those parents who make every effort to continue to park considerately and safely to help protect our children.

It is disappointing, however, that there is still a small minority of parents who are parking on yellow lines, on corners, double parking and even parking on neighbours' driveways. I have witnessed a number of alarming and perilous situations involving children, whereby cars are making dangerous manoeuvres, especially at home time. We have had quite a few complaints over the past weeks. You should also be aware that I have asked the police and the council to make more regular visits during peak times and I have been told they will issue parking tickets to those cars that are being parked illegally.

Wet Morningsreminder.....

On wet mornings children will be allowed into school at 8.45am when staff will be available to take responsibility for them. When mornings are wet, please try to ensure that your children do not arrive in school before 8.45am. Key Stage 1 and Reception children should enter school through the door in the Key Stage 1 playground where a teacher will be on duty and Key Stage 2 children through the Year 3/4 door.

A busy few weeks at Tividale....

October and the first half of November have been a hive of activity here at school, so I wanted to take the opportunity to tell you about some of the things our children have been doing....

It started with Y6 having a visit from the 'Titanic man!'. They have been learning all about the Titanic and its legacy, and the visitor was a great resource to aid their studies. They spent time following the experiences of different passengers, researching their lives, the reasons for them leaving England to make a new life in America, and ultimately their fate. Survivor or Victim? They also investigated some of the various conspiracies which surround the sinking of the ship.

Year 4, have visited religious places of worship, but they were also great ambassadors for our school when they went out on their school trip to the Black Country Museum. They also spent time following the life of a particular child from the Victorian era, and learned about clothes, food, school, work, homes and leisure activities that the children would have been involved in during their lifetime. The museum were so impressed by the children that they took the trouble to inform me that their behaviour and enthusiasm for learning was outstanding and the best they had ever known. Well done Year 4!

Children from years 5 & 6 visited Edgmond Hall in Shropshire for an adventurous outdoor activity week. Again, their behaviour was impeccable, and a fabulous time was had by all. Finally, last Friday, Year 1 had a chilly, but excellent visit to Tamworth Castle, learning all about what it was like to live in mediaeval times.

A busy few weeks at Tividale (continued)....

Our assemblies this month have shown us all about the stimulating learning that has been taking place in some of our year groups. Class 4 taught us all about the reigns of Queen Elizabeth 1 and Queen Victoria, not to mention including information about their nasty habits, such as Queen Elizabeth never cleaning her teeth! Year 3 gave us a vibrant and informative explanation about the Islamic festivals of Eid, and helped us to understand the importance of these festivals to Muslims and the influence of the moon in the timing of the festivals of Eid and Ramadan. We also had two excellent Harvest Festival Assemblies performed by all the children in their respective Key Stages. This was, as usual, very well supported- and enjoyed- by parents and relatives. The Year 2 Diwali assembly was also excellent, and shared with us their learning about the significance of Diwali as the 'festival of lights.'

As well as all of this, the whole of the month of October each year sees children at Tividale celebrate Black History month. Black History Month is held every October in Britain and it's aims are to:

- promote knowledge of Black History and experience
- disseminate information on positive Black people's contributions to British Society
- heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people in their cultural heritage.

All across our school from Nursery to year 6, our children have enjoyed listening to assemblies, stories, role-playing, researching and learning about important events and people from Black history which have had an impact on the way we live our lives in today's society. In particular, this year, they studied musicians and performed their music and songs to the rest of the school.

Parent Workshops

You will be aware that over the past two weeks, the teachers have been running a number of parent workshops, which have been really well received and supported. I am aware that is difficult for some parents to attend, but I know you all try your best. As a working parent myself, I understand the strains and difficulties of attending daytime events. Having said that, those of you who were able to attend were very impressed and the feedback has been excellent. It is a great opportunity for parents to experience what life is like in the classroom on a daily basis, the range and quality of learning experiences your children are given, and, very importantly, the knowledge and skills your children are acquiring.

Important Days/Dates for the rest of November 2017

16 th	Y3 to be visited by a Roman Soldier
17 th	Non-Uniform day for Children in Need
20 th /27 th	Assessment Weeks

Finally...

Thank you to all parents and carers who donated towards our fabulous Harvest Festivals. The food was donated to nominated local senior citizens and a food bank, where it is always gratefully received.

Collecting Children from Events Early

We have many events to which parents are invited to attend in school, and occasionally, the afternoon sessions may finish earlier than 3:30pm. On these occasions, the office staff will always do their best to accommodate requests for collecting children from classroom early. Sometimes, however, this is not possible, especially when there are larger numbers of parents and it is after 3pm, as this can often mean collecting siblings from around school. This in turn, can mean disrupting learning and leaving the office short staffed at one of its busiest times.

Thank you for your understanding regarding this matter, and I ask you to be patient if on rare occasions, office staff have to politely decline your request to collect children early after concerts or assemblies. Please feel free to speak to me, if you have any concerns about this.