

October 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy October we had in school! We enjoyed celebrating our Harvest Festival at St Peters Church with Reverend Hunt. The church looked beautiful, as always, and the children performed their songs, stories and poems brilliantly. The children read the prayers in loud clear voices, and the service was truly special. Thank you to everybody for giving so generously to the foodbank. They were very grateful for all your donations.

Our PTA have been really busy behind the scenes and out and about. They ran two sweet stalls; one at school and one on community bonfire night. We have rearranged the disco for Year 1 and 2 children on the 22nd November, and we hope your children can still join us for it. It is that time of year when they are asking for Raffle prizes for our Christmas Raffle. If you, or the company you work for, have a prize you could donate, please send it in to the school office. Tickets will be sent home in November. You can catch what they are up to via their social media page.

The children have been busy working on their Christmas card designs and we are waiting for them to come back to school. We will send the proofs home with you as soon as they arrive.

Remember to put your orders in, to get them back in time for Christmas. With Christmas fast approaching, all our Christmas dates are on our school calendar, so please have a look on there for information. We will need volunteer helpers to help with our Christmas Bazaar event, mums, dads, grandmas and grandads are all welcome to come and help the children shop for presents and wrap them up to go under their trees at home. Please contact the school office if you can help on Tuesday 10th December. It is a day that will fill you with Christmas cheer (past helpers are also welcome, if you would like to come back and support our new parents).

We will be saying goodbye to Miss Wood this month and have said hello to Miss Robinson in the Year R team. We also wish Mrs Withers and her husband congratulations on the birth of their new daughter, Arabella. We are all looking forward to meeting her in the staffroom.

This month, our Year 1 and 2 children will be voting for their class school council member. We will announce our councilors after voting is over. We will also be including children in our own 'select committees' along with governors and teachers, to monitor our new vision for BWIS from January 2025. Our four key vision areas will be: Learning, Community, Sustainability and Character. We believe our vision will be relevant in our school and beyond.

I saw many parents at the Learning Outcomes in Year 1 and 2; the home learning has been amazing, and the parents were amazed at the learning in the books and on the displays. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at our parent teacher meetings in November.

Kind regards

Mrs Ginene Riches

Headteacher

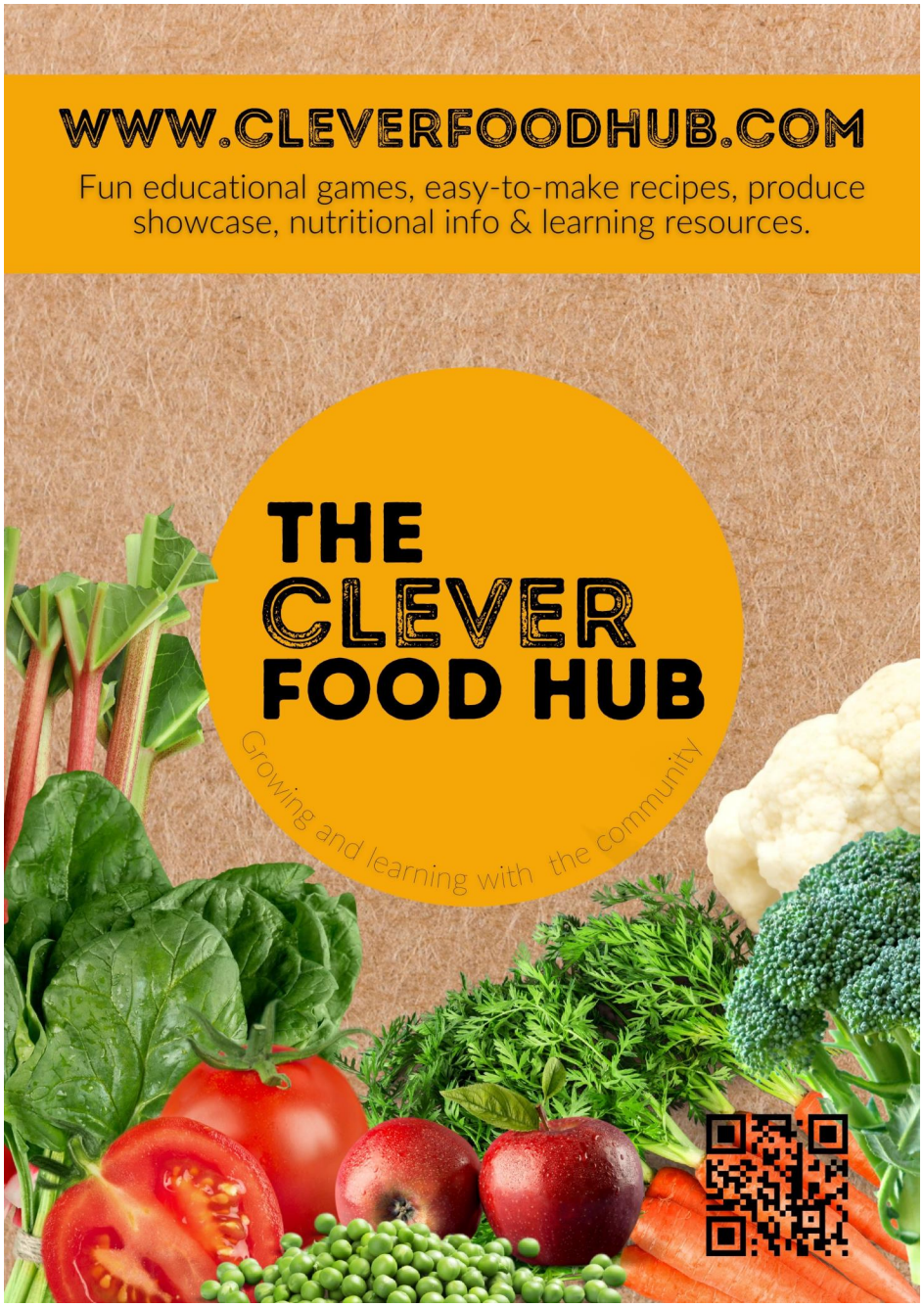
Scholastic Book Fair



From Tuesday 5th to Monday 11th November we will have a Scholastic Book Fair in reception. Please have a browse when here for Parents Evening. All orders raise money for the school to spend on books.

Payment can be made by card or cash.

Cleverfood Hub Poster



Remembrance Day

From Tuesday 5th November Poppies will be available for sale every day in reception. Please send donations in a named envelope.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Children in Need - Friday 15th November



On Friday 15th November we will be having a non-uniform 'Come in any clothes' day and collecting donations for Children in Need. After school the PTA will be having a sweet sale outside school.

PTA Update

It's been a busy and exciting Autumn so far!

Our first PTA event of the year is the Yr1 & 2 Disco with Crazy M, which was due 18th October. As you are all aware the school had to close early that day due to a loss of power and the disco was cancelled. We are currently working to identify a new date, which will be advertised soon.

We will re-open bookings if there are more that would like to attend, those that have already booked and paid will be transferred to the new date. If the new date, when announced, prevents attendance then we will of course refund the money paid to those affected, upon request.

You will see we have continued our online presence, and will start to increase the volume of communications, especially as we approach the busier Christmas period in the coming months, please do follow us and look out for announcements and events.

You can follow us on Facebook and Instagram by clicking the links or searching for BWISPTA.

The PTA is really important, its fundraising deliver vital additional funds to school projects, such as the new planned learning suite, and the children love the events throughout the year. Without the PTA (and all the help from the School staff and volunteers) these events wouldn't happen.

There are several ways to support your PTA, come and join the committee, become a class representative, or a volunteer via WhatsApp. In any capacity help is welcome and very rewarding.

Thanks to those who have signed up to volunteer, QR codes to automatically join are up around the school, and sent out via previous communications, and included below. You can also click the link to join.

https://chat.whatsapp.com/EtuFFmioYIJC1YRIdpd5df

If you have any questions about how you can help, please reach out to us at bwispta@gmail.com we are parents, and work full time too, so we try to respond within a couple of days.

This year we are also formally launching our donation and Events website/webapp, we tested it last year with lots of positive feedback, watch this space for more news coming soon.

Wishing you all the best.

Andy Knight - PTA Vice Chair

Governor Update

There has been scheduled board or committee meetings since last month's newsletter update but governors have continued to be busy panning future meetings, visits, trainings events and audits. We have also been working with the school in reviewing and updating a number of policies.

Just before half term we have our second full governing board meeting of the year where we will hear a termly update from Mrs Riches and have opportunity to ask questions around the curriculum, finance and any challenges the school may be facing. Now being in the middle of the financial; year, there will be a particular focus on matters relating to the school budget, ensuring we remain on rack.

For this meeting we shall also be welcoming two new governors to the board. Henry Flynn will be joining as as co-opted governor and Steven Vidovic as a parent governor having recently been successful in the parent/carer election.. There are still some vacancies for co-opted governors on the board so if you know anyone who would like to get involved and is not a parent of a child at the school, please do get in touch with the school office f or more information.

Lastly, the governors wish everyone a great half term break and look forward to providing more updates next month.

BWIS Governing Body

Year Group Updates

Year R

Year R have been busy learning all about seasonal changes. We have been on Autumn walks and learnt songs about Harvest. Have you heard us singing them at home?

After reading the story 'Leaf Man' Rabbits and Owls found a letter saying he was lost in the school grounds. The children were very keen to start searching for Leaf Man and were excited when they finally found him. They were inspired to create him some leaf man friends so he wouldn't be lonely anymore. We have also been authors and illustrators while creating our own Leaf Man Adventure book. We can't wait to share the book we are making with you!

Year 1

Year 1 are in full swing of their new project pick a puppet. The project began with a puppet show put on by Mrs Moth, Miss Whitehead and Miss Daniels-King. It was terrible! The puppets were badly made and broke. The story kept going wrong and the props were unrecogniable. The children decided they could do a much better job and were set the challenge of designing and making puppets the retell the story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff. This week the children have been exploring different puppet types and how they work. Some of the puppets were big and fluffy and we had to be careful not to tangle up the strings. Other puppets were very small and only fit on one finger. We had lots of fun but finally decided to make paper bag puppets. Our next job is to design and make mocks ups of our puppets, ready to evaluate them and put on our puppets shows!

Year 2

Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their 'Fire Fire!' project. They loved visiting Little Woodham and finding out what life was like in 1666. We were really impressed with the information they could recall after this trip! After finding out all about The Great Fire of London at school, the children have realised how lucky we are to have a fire service. We have been busy imagining what it would have been like in London in 1666, writing diary entries and letters to the Lord Mayor. We have been really creative in Art producing gorgeous marble inked collages! Thank you to all the grown ups for helping with the AMAZING home learning for this project. What a successful outcome we had at the end of our project - the children loved showing off their learn



1 - Year 2 - fire of London houses



2 - Year 2 - Little Woodham school trip



3 - Year R: Leaf man



4 - Year R

Dates for your Diary

- Monday 4th November - first day back after half term

- Tuesday 5th - Monday 11th November - Scholastic Book Fair
- Tuesday 5th & Thursday 7th November - Parent Teacher Meetings - creche available
- Friday 15th November - Children in Need, non uniform day
- Friday 15th November - After school PTA sweet sale
- Monday 18th November - Open morning at Junior school for Year 2 parents, 9-1030am
- Wednesday 20th November - Phonics Talk for Year R parents at 9.15am
- Wednesday 20th November - Open afternoon at Junior school for Year 2 parents 115-245pm
- Friday 22nd November - rescheduled Year 1 & 2 disco
- Monday 25th November - INSET day, school close for pupils



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[1] https://www.bwis.org.uk/