



Newsletter

Friday 23rd October 2020

As we reach the end of a very unusual half term, I would once again like to say a huge thank you to everyone at Two Village for making our return to school in September so straightforward. We realise that allocating collection and drop off times can make things more difficult for parents and carers so I would like to thank everyone for adhering to these times and doing their part to socially distance. The children have been amazing, ensuring that they remain in their bubbles and following safe hygiene practices to keep themselves and others safe. I would lastly like to thank all of the wonderful staff at Two Village for working so hard during such an unusual and complicated time. They have ensured that children are enjoying their learning and are supporting their emotional wellbeing, as well as identifying any gaps in their learning and filling these. Thank you all.

Face Coverings

As you will be aware, we review our Covid-19 Risk Assessment regularly and, as a result of Essex moving to Tier 2 last weekend, we now feel that it would be appropriate to ask parents/carers to wear face coverings when they drop their child off at school, in case they come into close contact with other parents/carers/children. Many other local schools have asked their parents/carers to do this already. Although we wanted to avoid this if possible, we feel that it is another safety measure that can be put in place at a time when the number of positive cases locally appear to be rising.

Vine Passport

You will have all received today a letter about the new Vine Passport that all children at Two Village will be working towards completing this year. There are 40 challenges in total which enable the children to earn badges for different zones. Badges will be presented to them in school once the 5 challenges for the zone have been completed. We look forward to seeing how well everyone is doing next term and sharing news on this.

Upcoming Events

Next half term we have a number of events and competitions for the children to take part in. Please see the list below. These have also been added to the diary dates at the end of the newsletter.

Children in Need – **Friday 13th November**. The School Council are planning what they would like to do for this and will be in touch very soon.

Christmas Jumper Day – **Friday 11th December** The children will be invited to wear a Christmas jumper for the day (over their school uniform) to raise money for Save the Children.

Wear a Christmas Hat Day – **Friday 18th December**. This fundraising event is to support the Brain Tumour Research charity. This charity is close to the hearts of one of our pupils and his family who have a friend with a brain tumor.

Please note that as we have two fundraising events very close to one another, we will be asking all children to donate a set amount for Wear a Christmas Hat Day. The decision to donate for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper Day will be optional or donations can be less than the normal suggested amount.

Advent Calendar Competition – children will again be invited to create a Christmas design for our whole school advent calendar. Templates will be provided for this next half term.



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Christmas Cake Competition – children will be invited to design and make a Christmas cake this year. There are no limits/rules so you can be as creative as you like. Cakes will be sold or auctioned after the competition.

More details will follow about each event/competition.

Friday Snack Shop

As we are currently unable to safely provide the regular daily tuck shop, we have decided to trial a Friday breaktime snack trolley. The snacks being sold will be limited and will be healthy – cereal bars/healthy cakes. The cost of all items will remain at 30p to make things easier for the children and staff. The snack and price may vary at special times of the year e.g. bonfire night/Christmas, as a special treat, but we will let you know when this will be the case. If your child would like to buy a snack on a Friday, please could we ask you to send them in to school with the correct money, preferably in a sealed envelope, which can be given to the class teacher. Children will then be given a raffle ticket to 'buy' their cake with to prevent contact with coins and between staff/children. On the first Friday back, the kitchen will be preparing chocolate apples for bonfire night, these will be priced at 50p.



RSE

After half term, we will be sending out a copy of our new Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy for consultation. As you may be aware, from this year, the Government has introduced compulsory RSE and Health Education. We will be sending out our policy for you to read and will be asking you to send us any questions or comments that you may have. Ideally we would have liked to have held our parent meeting on RSE, which was planned for the end of the Spring Term 2020. However, due to the school closure and the current situation, we are unable to hold a meeting as planned. If we feel it is required, based on feedback on the policy, we will aim to hold a virtual question and answer session around this subject next half term.

Secondary School Applications

Please be aware that applications for places at secondary school must be made by 31st October.

Worship

This half term, we have focused on our value perseverance during worship. We are currently collating the children's thoughts and evaluations of worship in school and would really love to receive some images of children demonstrating this value at home. These will be used within a pupil led worship on perseverance and within a special book celebrating what we have learnt this half term through worship. Photos can be sent via Dojo to class teachers.

Class Newsletters

From next half term, each class will be producing a short class newsletter each month to share what they have been doing in class. These will be available on the school's website. Links to this will be sent via Class Dojo.



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Guy Carnival Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who has donated pennies for the Guy Carnival fundraising event. Within their own class bubbles, the children have added their pennies to a line started by Year 6 throughout the morning. We now have a very long line of pennies around the school. We will have to wait to see how well we have done compared to other schools. The winning school will be announced after the half term break.



E Safety



Please see below a recent post from The 2 Johns about the game **Among Us**

Over the past week we have received numerous messages concerning the massively popular game 'Among Us'

It has become clear to us that many young users of this game are seeing explicit chat and more worryingly are joining strangers on third party apps like, Discord, WhatsApp and FaceTime so as the game becomes easier to play. The use of third party apps is one of the biggest issues we are up against at the moment and this particular game heavily embraces this trend.

'Among us' is a strategy game that can be downloaded onto any computer and can also be played on a mobile device.

Players take on a role either as a 'crew mate' or an 'imposter'. Imposters walk around the game essentially trying to kill the other characters and sabotage missions. The idea is to work out who the bad guys are. So that Crew members can discuss who may be the imposter they typically add each other on third party apps and talk about the suspects.

In the game, at the outset, you are given three different ways of playing. You can Host a game whereby you select the players you want to play with, you can set up a 'private' game whereby you could play with friends who you have given a 'room code' or you can play in the public game where you play with random people from around the world.

The game must be played as a multi player game and as such advising your children to play it without communicating in some way is not possible. Children are agreeing to play without communication but then will do this behind their parents back.

In its current form the game is unmoderated and as such if a child plays with strangers they will experience bad language and from reports we have been receiving on a daily basis they will sometimes be asked sexual questions. They are also likely to experience racist, sexist and homophobic language. We think you can add a filter but it seems that people get around this by changing the style of chat using numbers and symbols etc



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The speed at which this game is growing has surprised the developers and in the future (2021) they will release a second version of the game that may be safer.

In our opinion, if your child is 14 years old then they will probably be able to handle the issues that arise but once you go younger than this, in particular where children are in Primary School its hard to see how they can play this safely unless an adult is actively involved with them.

Its our view that the safest method of play is by selecting the 'Private' game option and then making sure that the only people with the room code are the child's actual real life friends

We would advise against downloading this app and then letting a Primary Age child 'get on with it' because you need to play with several people at once the temptation is huge to join the public game. If the child meets a bad person in the public game it is highly likely that person will then invite them to a private or hosted game.

The game itself is really good and will appeal to thousands of children. It is possible that children are playing this and the parents haven't realised it is an unmoderated mass multi player game.

The reports we have received mainly concern children being asked sexual questions. As we have said, our biggest worry is that the children have made friends within this game and now have an online friendship being developed over Discord, WhatsApp or FaceTime.

Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Year 5 who have won the Reading Challenge yet again this week, with 90% of the class reading at least 5 times this week. Congratulations also to Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6, where at least 80% of the class read at least 5 times – this is a huge improvement on previous terms! The winners for the whole half term are Year 5 who won for 4 weeks out of the 5 that the Reading Challenge covered this half term. Congratulations on fabulous reading Hazel Class! We look forward to seeing who the winners will be next half term.

Football

Just a reminder that now that the weather is changing, the field is becoming extremely muddy. As football is so popular with some of our pupils, we still want them to be able to use the field for football on their allocated day/s.

In order for the children to use the field for football at lunchtime, children will need to bring in a spare set of old clothing, including footwear, which can be used on the field. This can be kept in a carrier bag on a peg in the cloakroom. If your child enjoys playing football during their lunchtime break, we would ask that they are provided with a change of clothing to play in from next week.

Football days:

Year 1 - Thursday

Year 2 – Monday

Year 3 - Tuesday

Year 4 - Friday

Year 5 - Wednesday

Year 6 - daily

Parking

As stated in previous newsletters and on Class Dojo, please could anyone parking at the back of the school for drop offs or collections please ensure that they are parking carefully. We have had reports



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and complaints that parents/carers are parking without consideration for local residents, blocking driveways and parking on the grass. We appreciate that it is not ideal for more people to be using the back entrance each day but we need to make use of both entrances to keep everyone safe.

Cashless Payments

As explained in a previous newsletter, at some point in the near future, we will be providing you with information about us becoming a cashless school so please look out for this. When we become cashless, we will no longer be able to receive any money for payment of anything in school, including school dinners, visits or music lessons. Payments will need to be made in advance using an online system. Many local schools are now cashless and have reported that this system is much easier for school staff and parents. Please rest assured that we will provide plenty of warning regarding the changeover date and will inform everyone fully of how the system will work, as soon as we have this information.

Parent Consultations

Everyone should now have informed their child’s class teacher of any times that they are unable to do for the upcoming Parent Consultations. You should receive your time slot, via Class Dojo, by the end of today. If you have not been provided with a time slot, please let the class teacher know.

- Early Years – Monday 9th November
- Year 1 – Tuesday 10th November
- Year 2 – Wednesday 11th November
- Year 3 – Thursday 12th November
- Year 4 – Friday – 13th November
- Year 5 – Monday – 9th November
- Year 6 – Friday 13th November

Non Pupil Day Reminder

Please note that there is a non-pupil day coming up on Friday 27th November.

Mrs Natasha Bennett
Headteacher

Diary Dates 2020-21

Date	Event
Friday 23 rd October	Last day of the first half of the Autumn Term
Monday 26 th October	HALF TERM
Monday 2 nd November	Pupils return to school
Week Commencing 9 th November	Parent Consultation telephone meetings
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need
Friday 27 th November	NON PUPIL DAY
Friday 11 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 18 th December	Last day of the Autumn Term for pupils Wear a Christmas Hat Day
Monday 4 th January	NON PUPIL DAY
Tuesday 5 th January	Children return to school



Two Village C of E Primary School



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