

# Temple Herdewyke, Christmas Newsletter

## A Message From Mr Hibbert,

I have been supporting the school since September, and would like to thank all of the children and staff for making me feel so welcome. My involvement in the school has been different from the normal headteacher role, and contact between me and you as the Children's adults has been limited- this partly due to COVID and the fact I'm only here for a little time. However, I became a headteacher initially because I wanted to work with children, parents and staff to help make things better— even if it is always good, there is always another better. So changes and improvements have not stopped while Mrs Godfrey continues to support Bishops Itchington.

I always start emails to staff, and staff meetings with 3 successes, and I would like to do this also in this newsletter, hopefully this will help you can see the hard work that teachers have been putting in behind the scenes and what has happened to make Temple Herdewyke even better.

**Success 1-** The school has introduced Worry Eaters, and launched a strategy for positive Mental Health where we encourage children 'If you want a worry to stop, Start Telling Other People.' It doesn't matter what the worry is - friendships, family, online, bullying, or their safety, it also doesn't matter how old the children are, it also doesn't matter how long it has been going on for - talking to trusted people is the best way to solve problems. Linked to this we are launching teaching in PSHCE in January called 'Zones of Regulation.' The idea behind this is simple - nobody can concentrate if they are sad, angry, worried or scared. The best learners are happy learners. This learning unit will teach children in every class about how their emotions can change their behaviour—and how strategies they can use when they are not in 'the green zone' (The happy-learning zone)

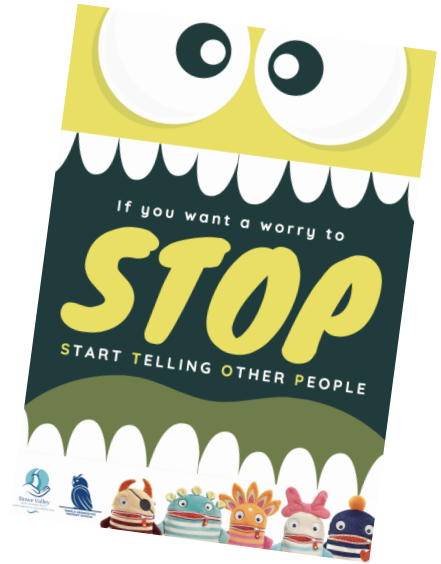
**Success 2—**The reception outside area is being updated and improved and soon will not resemble a mud pit. The exciting bit - pouring the soft play area happens next week. I can't wait to see children using this amazing new space in January.

**Success 3-**The school has introduced a new behaviour steps and monitoring system so we can pick up quicker behaviour patterns and offer support sooner. Our new behaviour steps are:

- 1- Children given a reminder.
- 2- Children moved away from distractions - for example sitting next to a different child.
- 3— Children given thinking time, depending on the age of the child, it could be spent talking with an adult in their classroom about their behaviour, or given time on their own to think how they can make the correct choices. They will miss a small amount of their playtime (their age in minutes) to make up for the missed learning time.
- 4— The headteacher, or another teacher will speak with them. This is when Parents will also be contacted.

Obviously any violent, aggressive or discriminatory behaviour will move up the steps quicker.

In January we will be also running rewards using the class dojo system—so the moment your child does something well, they will get rewards on the class-dojos app and you will get to see their successes. They will get certificates for the more green dojos they get.



## Christmas Cards and Messages:

Due to the nature of how schools can operate, keeping staff and children in their bubbles and avoiding any mixing, has ensured that this term has been tougher and more draining than normal.

I am looking at a different way to show mine and your appreciation for the hard work of the staff this year and I am asking for your help with this.

If you could send an email to Louise—[templeherdewyke@stowevalley.com](mailto:templeherdewyke@stowevalley.com) with a positive comment about your child's teacher, teaching assistant, office staff, lunchtime staff and/or premise staff. We will then collate the comments and display them in their staffroom. I know this will bring a smile to the staff's faces. It could be something where a member of staff has gone over and above or simply your gratitude for the work they do.

I know some parents like to give gifts, and I am not stopping this, but as being kind is central to all we do, this simple act of kindness will be greatly appreciated.



**The last date for bringing in Christmas Cards is Monday 14th December. This is so we can quarantine them for 48 hours before handing out.**

# Christmas Week Events

## Monday 14th December:

- Last day for sending in Christmas Cards.
- Children in every class will watch the Reception Christmas Play in their classrooms.

## Tuesday 15th December:

- School Christmas Meal
- Winter Jumper day - If children already have Christmas Jumpers - great, otherwise please can they wear their favourite Winter Warm Top. Any jumper will do—please don't buy anything specifically. Buckets will be available for donations towards **Save the Children**.



## Wednesday 16th December:

- We will be watching a panto - **'Oh no you won't!, Oh yes we will!'** We are all going on a Virtual School trip - every child from Nursery to Year 6 we will be streaming directly to their classrooms 'The Emperors New Clothes' by the Northern Stage in Newcastle.

## Thursday 17th December:

- Last Day of Term.
- Children will watching the video of the year 1/2 nativity in their classrooms.
- Class Parties - children can wear their party clothes, school will be providing snacks and food.
- The Reception and Year 1/2 Christmas Plays will be available on YouTube. Links will be sent to the parents in those classes. (It will be unlisted - so without the link, nobody would be able to search for it.)

## Friday 18th December—School will be closed.

The Government today announced that schools can designate December 18<sup>th</sup> (last day of term) as a teacher training day. Temple Herdewyke, in line with all schools in the Stowe Valley MAT will be closed to all children on this day. Staff will use this day to prepare for an effective return to school in the New Year.