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Autumn newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

The Autumn term is flying by and we're only a few days away from December. It's been a busy start to the school year, as always, so here are a few of the highlights as well as the events to look forward to over the next few weeks.

The term so far…



The start of the new term also saw the start of a new football season and our team got straight back into things with a couple of early games. The season is now on hold for a winter break but we are looking forward to getting going again in the Spring.



It is beginning to feel pretty wintery but we are still in the Autumn term and this is the time of year when we traditionally think about Harvest. The children enjoyed visiting St Helen's Church for our Harvest festival and the Church was very grateful for your donations, which were passed on to local food banks.



Another feature of the Autumn term is the Remembrance Day parade in Whitworth Park. Children from Darley Churchtown joined in with the parade and read out the names of the fallen in a service by the war memorial. We also raised money for the Royal British Legion by selling poppies and other items at the end of the school day.

We've also been busy with lots of other trips and activities. Class 3 went to Cromford Mills to learn about the industrial revolution. We raised money for Children in Need by dressing up and going for a lovely walk in the local area, promoted mental health awareness by supporting the 'Hello Yellow' campaign and, last week, celebrated our version of anti-bullying week – friendship week – by thinking about this theme in collective worship and through our PSHE lessons.

You can find lots more about all these events in our Facebook page or the news pages of the school website.

What's coming up next?

The next few weeks are some of the busiest of the year. It's an exciting time but can also be a little overwhelming for some children (and grown ups!) so here's a quick guide to what is going on. Our regular Friday updates will also help everyone keep track so look out for those.

This week, we've got a visit from Derbyshire County Council's recycling team tomorrow and then, on Thursday, Year 6 will have the second part of their Bikeability session after this unfortunately had to be postponed due to illness.

Next week the Christmas fun begins with a festive film club organised by the PTA on Thursday 3rd December. On Friday 4th December we are having a non-uniform day and are asking if children can bring in donations for Christmas hampers. We also have a Church service on Thursday 3rd, where we will be thinking about Advent, so please join us at 10.30 at St Helen's Church if you are free.

The following week we have our infant nativity performance. As we have the younger nursery children joining us this year, we've decided to hold this in the afternoon. Please join us from 2pm for mince pies and drinks before the performance. Tickets will be on sale this week.

The next day, Class 2 and 3 are going to sing carols at Underhall and then on Thursday 10th the whole school is going to Buxton to watch Sleeping Beauty. We're ending the week with Christmas jumper day and our annual Christmas craft afternoon, which parents and carers are welcome to attend (Christmas jumpers are optional).



The final week of term has the PTA's Christmas bingo on the 15th December, we've got Christmas dinner day and class parties on the 16th and then our end of term carol service is in the afternoon of Thursday 17th December at 2.30pm at St Helen's. This year, we've also decided to hold a Christmas Fair, which will take place straight after the carol service, so come along for some stalls, treats and a performance from the handbell club.

The last day of term is Friday 18th December, after which everyone is likely to need a well earned rest.

Best wishes,

Tom Lloyd

Head of School