

NOVEMBER 2020

Dates for
the Diary:

Diary Dates Week Commencing 9th November 2020

- Monday 9th November
- Forest School for Eagle Class
 - Kestrel & Eagle Board Games after school club pick-up 4:15
 - Merlin Stay & Play after school club pick-up 4:15
- Tuesday 10th November
- Whole school sport pm
 - After school Sports Club pick-up 4:15
- Wednesday 11th November
- Kestrel & Eagle 24 Maths after school club pick-up 4:15
 - Merlin Board Games after school club pick-up 4:15
 - After school club Sewing pick-up 4:30
- Thursday 12th November
- Kestrel & Eagle STEM after school club pick-up 4:15
 - Merlin Fimo Clay after school club pick-up 4:15
- Friday 13th November
- **Children In Need - Wear Spots bring a £1 donation**
 - Year 5/6 Mad Hatters Book club pick-up 4:15
 - Merlin Lego after school club pick-up 4:15
 - Kestrel Stay & Play after school club pick-up 4:15

Diary Dates Week Commencing 16th November 2020

- Monday 16th November
- **Odd Socks Day - Anti-bully Awareness**
 - **Forest School for Merlin Class**
 - Kestrel & Eagle Board Games after school club pick-up 4:15
 - Merlin Stay & Play after school club pick-up 4:15
- Tuesday 17th November
- Whole school sport pm
 - After school Sports Club pick-up 4:15
- Wednesday 18th November
- Kestrel & Eagle 24 Maths after school club pick-up 4:15
 - Merlin Board Games after school club pick-up 4:15
 - After school club Sewing pick-up 4:30
- Thursday 19th November
- Kestrel & Eagle STEM after school club pick-up 4:15
 - Merlin Fimo Clay after school club pick-up 4:15
- Friday 20th November
- Year 5/6 Mad Hatters Book club pick-up 4:15
 - Merlin Lego after school club pick-up 4:15
 - Kestrel Stay & Play after school club pick-up 4:15



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6th November 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

The staff team and I hope that you are all well.

We would also like to all say a huge thank you and well done for your amazing efforts with the 1000km cycling challenge which has massively surpassed its target. We are so impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment from you all, as well as the very generous donations that have been made as a result. We have made a display of photographs on the playground for you to see. If you are not featured and would like to be, please send Mrs Powell a photo and she will add it to the display! The money raised has enabled us to provide music lessons across the year using expert teachers and resources from Gloucestershire Music. This includes Garage Band for all classes and whole class ensemble tuition in a range of instruments - Violas, Recorders and Brass are planned this year. It has also allowed us to once again have the Voice Collectives Project work with the older children in the school during the Spring term. We are so lucky to be able to do this - Gloucestershire Music tell us there are no other schools providing such an offer that reaches all the children in the school during each academic year.

As you've raised so much money, the additional money from FOSS will also go towards extending our reading for pleasure books, creating up to date class libraries in each classroom or in their designated library area. It will also contribute towards the ongoing chess lessons for children in Years 3-6 to support mathematical and critical thinking. We also have other things on our wish list - including more practical maths and science resources, additional natural early years resources, additional iPads to support our computing curriculum (now that we have more pupils on roll) as well as the resources for a gardening area including raised beds within the school grounds. Once again, thank you - we couldn't do these things without you!

Even though we are in period of restriction due to Covid-19 it is our intention to keep things running in as normal a way as we are possibly able over the coming weeks, bearing in mind current guidance and the need for vigilance around hygiene and transmission. We will keep you updated with any changes to procedures in and around school.

Next week is Remembrance Day and whilst we are not able to carry out our usual whole school service at the memorial due to the current Covid-19 regulations a poppy wreath will still be laid by some of the year 6 children from the school. This will take place during next week and children will pay their respects on behalf of the school. Poppies are on sale in school today to support the work of the British Legion.

At the end of next week - so Friday 13th November - we will also participate in the BBC's Children in Need event, as we usually do at this time of year. Children may come to school in non-uniform on that day and spots (of the clothing kind) are recommended! Please can children bring a donation for Children in Need - a £1 donation would be great. Thank you.

Also coming up the following week, starting on 16th November is national Anti-Bullying week and so classes will each do some work connected to this during the week. On Monday 16th November it is national 'Odd Socks Day' linked to this. Odd Socks Day is an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique. If you would like more information please see the link here : <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/odd-socks-day/what-odd-socks-day>. Your child is welcome to wear odd socks to school on this day! (In my house this seems to be a regular occurrence anyway!).

Looking ahead, we are starting to put together plans for Christmas and children have begun to learn some Christmas songs in singing assemblies so you may start to hear these at home. We know this feels a little early but it won't be possible to do our usual nativity this year and we are therefore forward planning some alternatives. We will give you more information on this nearer the time. We will also be creating our usual large 3D lanterns for the Stroud Lantern Festival. Again, this has modifications this year due to Covid-19 and there will be no public procession. Instead the lanterns will be hung in shops around the town and a lantern spotting walking trail is being planned for families to follow individually during December.

Mrs Powell has just booked a virtual pantomime as we won't be able to go in person. We'll therefore virtually be attending a live streamed show of Cinderella in December - Oh yes we will!

In between all of that, lessons and teaching continue as usual and school is certainly a busy and productive place at the moment. In the words of a Year 1 child 'they are working us soo hard!' which, since I am also their class teacher, means the 'they' applies to me too! I won't make any apology for that, school is for both work and play (and the odd bit of rest doesn't go amiss too!). Hopefully all are evident when your children talk to you!

If you have any questions or concerns please do contact your child's class teacher, they will be happy to help.

I hope you all have a safe and happy weekend,

Kind regards

Vicky Barron - Head teacher



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