

Friday, 18th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Stars of the Week

This week's Stars of the Week have been linked to our collective worship theme of speaking out and making good choices. The children have participated in NSPCC assemblies where they have learnt about keeping themselves safe, including the times they are online, and the importance of acting responsibly and making positive choices. The following children have been recognised for their great work in school this week:



Reception	Clara: for always making kind choices
Year 1	Scarlett: for making kind choices
Year 2	Lottie: for showing kindness throughout the week
Year 3	Elsie-May: for always being ready to learn and for making good choices Jack: for being an extra special VIP who acts responsibly
Year 5	Daisy: for being kind and considerate
Year 6	Charlie: for being kind to his classmates

Online Safety

While we are on the theme of staying safe online, it is worth letting you know that as a school we promote e-safety through a programme called e-aware. This includes a series of lessons for pupils from Years 1 to 6 where the children learn about behaving responsibly online, choosing (and not sharing) safe passwords, understanding the differences between online 'friends' and real-life friends, and being aware of how much time they are spending online. Through the teaching of these lessons, it is apparent that some children are not always making safe and sensible choices when communicating and meeting one another online. I would advise you to be vigilant at home; please monitor your child's use of online devices and consoles to ensure that they keep themselves safe and that they are acting responsibly and kindly. Thank you.

Easter Eggs

Yes, you've read that correctly.... Easter eggs! You may notice your child bringing home an Easter egg today. These have been donated from Speke Hall (via a member of the congregation at St Mary's Church in Hale) as there were fewer Easter activities this year. While it is a little strange to be receiving an Easter egg in June, we certainly didn't want to miss this opportunity to provide a treat for the children of Halebank. Many thanks to Speke Hall for thinking of us. I hope everyone enjoys their eggs this weekend. Don't worry, Class 3; you will get yours on Monday!

Covid-19 Update

As you are aware, our Class 3 bubble is currently closed and pupils have been advised to self-isolate until Monday next week. I am really grateful to Mrs Eley and Mrs Griffin-Jones for quickly switching to remote learning for the children and to Mrs Gibson, Mrs Stewart and Mrs Boon for working frantically to help prepare and deliver work packs for the class. We are all proud of the children in Years 3 and 4 for adapting so well to this change. We are looking forward to welcoming Class 3 back into school on Monday and we have really missed them!

This is our first full bubble closure during term time and the situation is a reminder to us all that the virus is still very much in circulation. I would ask that you continue to support the measures we have in place by sticking to your allotted drop off and pick up times, wearing your face coverings and minimising the time you spend on site. Thank you.



READING CHAMPIONS



Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
Oscar	Katie	Louis	Malak

Absence Reporting

At the current time, Mrs Fenlon and Mrs Boon are dealing with a greater than normal number of pupils absences. They are spending a good part of every morning reporting our daily attendance figures to both the Local Authority and the Department for Education, while also making contact with a small number of families who have not been in touch with us about a pupil absence. As you can imagine, this is all very time consuming and the office staff have many other jobs to complete within the school day. I would like to remind you that there are clear systems in place for you to let us know that your child will not be in school.

- Should your child be absent from school, please inform us no later than **9.00 am**. The easiest way to do this is to send us a **text message** on **0151 329 2134**. If you have the School Gateway app on your smartphone, all text messages to the school are free on this number.
- You can also **telephone** the office on **0151 425 5798** from 8.30 am; please select **Option 1** to report an absence.
- If you receive a text message or a phone call from us to ask about your child's absence, this means you haven't let us know in good time. In this case, please get back to us as a matter of urgency so that our attendance records are up to date.
- All of this is particularly important at the current time when children might be awaiting the outcome of Covid-19 tests; as a school, we really need to know about this promptly, so that we can take any action needed.
- If you know in advance that your child will be missing school, please ask the office for a Leave of Absence form; this should be completed and returned to school **before** your child is away from school. Thank you.

Your cooperation in reporting any future absences promptly, using either a phone call or text message, is **very** much appreciated.

Year 3/4 Cricket Tournament: CANCELLED

Unfortunately, following communication from the Director of Public Health that the Merseyside City Region (including Halton) is now in Covid-19 enhanced measures, the difficult decision has been made by organisers to cancel the Year 3 and 4 Diamond Cricket tournament on Wednesday 23rd June. Children should still come into school in their PE kits that day, as we will be having our own mini-tournament in school.

Organisers are hoping the tournament can be rescheduled for a date later on in July and will keep us posted if that is the case. Apologies for any disappointment caused. We are awaiting further news regarding the Year 5/6 tournament and will let you know.

Next Week's Events

22 nd June	Halebank 'Book Club' themed day <i>Children are invited to read together and recommend their favourite books to others</i>
23 rd June	Infant Sports Morning and Y5/6 Sports Afternoon <i>PE kits needed all day; the children are staying in their 'bubbles'</i>
25 th June	Halton Haven Hospice Purple Day <i>Our Year 6 pupils are organising a fundraiser for the hospice and everyone is invited to make something purple to wear (see attached poster)</i> <i>To make a small donation, please visit the hospice's Just Giving page:</i> https://www.justgiving.com/haltonhavenhospice

Have a lovely weekend. Stay safe ☺.

Yours sincerely

Richard Harley

Mr R Harley