

11.11.21

Dear Parents and Carers

Message from Mrs Rawlins – 11.11.21

It's been another busy week, so I thought I might try and write my letter to you today, as there a real possibility I may run out of time tomorrow! Teachers have very much enjoyed having the chance to share with you in Zoom consultations this week about how your child is getting on in school at present.

Going on in school this week:

Maths week England: Today, classes are working on shape in their Maths lesson, and I found a very catchy song called 'Nonagon' for the children to watch after my video assembly about shape (it is definitely one of those songs which you can't get out of your head once you have heard it!). Link here in case you want to have a listen with your child at home: <https://safeshare.tv/x/ss618c0e5d17601> (I accept no responsibility if you end up humming the song for days). Children from Y2 – Y6 have also been taking part in the TTRockstars National Battle, which runs until 7.30pm this evening.

Remembrance assembly: Although Armistice Day is actually today, we have chosen to mark Remembrance in tomorrow's assembly. In my video assembly, we will have the chance for a short time of silence, and I will be talking about different kinds of poppies. During the day, children will have the chance to make a poppy if they would like to, either to wear, to add to a central display or to bring home with them. We had asked for some poppies from the Royal British Legion, but they did not arrive, so we have not had any available in school this year.

Some information about things going on in school next week:

Anti-bullying fortnight: Every year, we prioritise 2 weeks where we aim to help children to continue to develop their understanding of what bullying is, why we do not want any bullying in school and how we all work together to make sure any issues are resolved. Next week is national Anti-bullying week, and the theme this year is 'One Kind Word'. I have attached some information from Sophie Morris, our PSHE Leader, about the approach we take in school. Here also is the explanation of the thinking behind this year's national theme:

*'In a world that can sometimes feel like it's filled with negativity, one kind word can provide a moment of hope. It can be a turning point. It can change someone's perspective. It can change their day. It can change the course of a conversation and break the cycle of bullying.
Best of all, one kind word leads to another. Kindness fuels kindness. So from the playground to Parliament, and from our phones to our homes, together, our actions can fire a chain reaction that powers positivity. It starts with one kind word. It starts today.'*

Odd Socks Day!: To kick off our Anti-bullying work, we will talk about 'Odd Socks Day' in assembly on Monday. Children are very welcome to wear odd socks to school on that day if they wish (I know some children like to do that every day!) – it is a fun way of reminding us that it is important to be ourselves and to respect that in others too.

Children in Need – Friday 19th November: Pre-Covid, Children in Need Day was one of our most fun events of the entire year – a whole-school event with children sharing their talents (for a maximum of 1 minute) in a ‘Do Your Thing’ assembly! We are not able to gather as a whole school yet, so I will be asking teachers to give children the opportunity to do the same thing in their classes on Friday. We did this last year and it was fantastic fun! We are again not collecting donations this year, but would encourage you to support this fabulous appeal if you are able to - it does such brilliant work to help children who are experiencing all sorts of difficulties in their lives (link here: [Together we can change young lives - BBC Children in Need](#)). Children are welcome to come to school wearing something spotty if they would like to – it is always such a fun day in school!

Wishing you a good weekend when it comes! Do contact Kathy Whiting (kwhiting@arbury.cambs.sch.uk) if you have any questions about things related to EYFS/KS1, and me if I can help with anything linked to KS2 (drawlins@arbury.cambs.sch.uk).

Best wishes

Diane Rawlins
Deputy Headteacher

