Newsletter December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we wrap up another fantastic term at Morley Primary School, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many highlights and share some exciting updates. Your support, as always, is what helps make Morley such a special place for our children to learn and grow.

Introducing Forest Schools at The Retreat

This term, we introduced Forest Schools at The Retreat, beginning with our Year 3 children. Forest Schools is a wonderful initiative that provides children with opportunities to learn and play in a natural environment, fostering creativity, problem-solving, and resilience. Through outdoor activities like den building, fire lighting, and nature exploration, children develop key skills while connecting with the outdoors. We look forward to expanding this program in the future and seeing the impact it has on our children's development.

Improved School Lunches Starting April

We are aware of some concerns about our current school lunches and have been actively seeking ways to improve. Without an on-site kitchen, finding the right solution has been challenging, but I am delighted to announce that from April, our lunches will be provided by a company called Apetito, in partnership with Wiltshire Farm Foods. Jim Campbell has generously offered the use of The Retreat's kitchen for this exciting change. More details will follow in the new year, but I am confident this will bring significant improvements to our school meal provision.

Reflecting on Enriching School Trips

We've had some incredible trips this term. In September, our whole school visited Peak Wildlife Park, which was a brilliant day of building the Morley Feeling pillar of Togetherness within our new house teams. Class 2's visit to Harry Potter World was truly magical, and Class 3 had an unforgettable residential to Hathersage in October, followed by their insightful trip to the Warning Zone in Leicester. Although Class 1's trip to Sudbury Museum of Childhood was cancelled due to snow, we are rescheduling it for 2025.

We also want to acknowledge the impact of rising costs on families. To help, we have decided that Class 2's residential trips will now run on alternate years. My heartfelt thanks to the staff for organising these enriching opportunities for our children—your hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed.

Community Safeguarding

We are pleased to introduce our new Community Safeguarding Reporting system, which allows parents, carers, and members of the community to report any safeguarding concerns easily and securely. This initiative ensures that everyone can play a role in keeping our children safe, creating a stronger, more vigilant community. To access this system, simply scan the QR code or visit the safeguarding page on our website. Thank you for your support in making Morley a safe and nurturing environment for all.

https://www.morley.derbyshire.sch.uk/can-i-talk-to-you-safeguarding-concerns/

PE at Springwood Leisure Centre

From Tuesday 14th January, our PE lessons will be held at Springwood Leisure Centre for five weeks. This gives our children a fantastic opportunity to use indoor facilities for dance and gymnastics. If your child requires transportation back to school for Play and Learn Club, please ensure you complete the required risk assessment (available from the school office) and inform us of the specific Tuesdays you need transportation. Unfortunately, we cannot arrange transportation without a signed risk assessment, as per ACE Derbyshire rules and staffing arrangements.

Attendance:

We are delighted to share that our current attendance stands at an incredible 98%, compared to the national average of 94.7%. This is a fantastic achievement, and we want to congratulate all our families and children for their efforts in ensuring excellent attendance. Attending school regularly is so important, as it supports children's learning, builds strong friendships, and establishes vital routines for success in the future. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to making every school day count!

Special Thanks

-Andrew Allsopp at Morley Hayes for donating a stunning Christmas tree and hosting our Christmas party, complete with DJ Hazza. These contributions bring such joy to our children, and we are incredibly grateful. We had a wonderful afternoon complete with a snow machine finale!

Jon Collins at Broomfield College, one of our school governors, for arranging tailored visits for our children that support our local curriculum. His efforts enrich our learning experiences and help make them truly unique. Class 2 visited last week to link to their science topic on the skeleton, where the children recreated a full-size horse skeleton using horse bones!

Kate Plant for her inspiring assemblies and supporting school by holding our nativity service at church. Her contributions to the school community are cherished and well valued.

Christmas Around the World

Thank you to Mrs Richards for organising our Class 2 and 3 Christmas performance at Morley Hayes to celebrate how our Morley community is interwoven through our links to such a vast range of countries around the world.

Reindeer Dash

I would like to thank Mr. Johnson for organising the Morley Obstacle Dash after our Reindeer Dash plans were altered due to muddy conditions. Despite the storm, we raised an amazing £260 for Treetops, a cause close to my heart. Treetops provides compassionate and vital care, and your generosity is deeply appreciated.

House Winners

Attendance Winners	Rolls Royce
House Point Winners	Tissington
Skip to the North Pole	Broomfield
Reindeer Dash	Morley Hayes

To all our staff, thank you for everything you do for the children of Morley. Your commitment to carrying forward the Morley Feeling of Togetherness, Love, and Passion makes our school a truly special place. I am deeply grateful for your hard work and dedication.

Finally, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy this festive season with your loved ones, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday, 7th January 2025.

With warmest wishes

Mr. Taylor