

Friday 31st January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

*National Storytelling Week is next week. We’ll be celebrating our own soon but why not share a few stories with the kids over the weekend…get those imaginative juices flowing…*

*Also, February kicks of tomorrow so check out our @urmstonprimary for our ‘Friendly February’ calendar!*

**A Polite Reminder: Dogs in the School Playground**

We would like to remind parents and carers that, apart from working dogs, we will not be allowing dogs on the school premises. This is to avoid fouling, as contact with such can be seriously dangerous for children, and to avoid unnecessary upset for our children, a number of who have a serious fear of dogs, however loving the dog can be. Thank you for your understanding.

**Children’s Mental Health Week**

It’s Children’s Mental Health Week next week and it gives us the opportunity to remind ourselves of how important it is to listen to each other and our children and to find the time to talk and express how we feel. Our children our incredibly resilient and we’ll be talking about how we ‘Find our Brave’ when things get tough. We sent a email explaining that we’d like the children to bring in something that helps them to be brave and reminds them how they can be strong, when they perhaps don’t feel always feel it. Please do find the time to talk your children about this…it’s always good for them to hear how we need to ‘find our brave’ too!

**Matt G at UPS**

The wonderful poet, Matt Goodfellow, will be joining KS2 again on Thursday for an assembly to celebrate the publication of his new book (and, of course, to try and flog a few!). Matt inspired the children with workshops in the Autumn term and it’s great to welcome him back.If you or your children are interested, please let the office know. You can follow Matt on twitter @EarlyTrain.

**PTA Disco – POSTPONED to 26th March**

We will be **postponing** next Thursday’s disco for a number of reasons. The new date will be Thursday 26th March. It will still be ***own clothes next Friday*** though – please bring in a voluntary pound for class funds ;-).

**Parent contacts and workshops – looking after ourselves**

As mentioned last week, there is lots of information on the Pastoral Care page under the Information tab on our website regarding support for families of children who may have mental health concerns or, indeed, who suffer from these themselves. Please also see the attached flyer about a Health and Wellbeing programme – a ten week course, every Wednesday, that starts on Wednesday 5th February.

**Science Week volunteers**

Mrs Vitkin and Mrs Coupe, our Science leads, sent an email out about our UPS Science Week that we’ll be holding on the week beginning the 23rd March. They’ve been asking people who have jobs to do with science (these may range from vets, doctors, gardeners, engineers, archaeologists, manufacturers etc.) to get in touch and perhaps come in some time that week to talk to the children and help us raise awareness of science in the wider worl and pique their curiosty further. Do get in touch if you’re interested!

**Science ‘Question of the Week’**

Last week’s question was ***‘How are snowflakes formed?’*** Your junior children may well now know the answer! This week’s question is ***‘What do the rings in a tree trunk tell us?’*** Please do talk to your children about this (maybe find some to take a look at yourselves?) and help to further enhance their curiosity in the world around them!

**PTA Pre-loved fancy dress costume sale (and uniforms!)…for World Book Day**

The PTA will be holding a sale and breakfast on Friday 21st February at 8.15. If you have any costumes or pre-loved uniforms you might like to donate, then please bring them to the office by the 20th February. They will be on sale for just £1 each!

**Homework**

We’ve had some more comments and ideas from parents regarding our recent question. Staff will be discussing these and we’ll see how this might look and the expectations for the next half term. Thanks for your involvement.

**KS1 English Workshop**

…will most likely be the second or third week back after half term. We’ll let you know!

**Come on everyone…let’s build our alumni community**

Let’s keep this going…we are really building here and would love to develop this project in collaboration with the education charity, ***Future First.*** It involves building a community of former pupils (and even friends of those former pupils) who are willing to forge closer links with our school and perhaps be on hand to help us out and inspire our children in all manner of ways. So please get talking – sign up yourself and ask others to sign up on our online portal…the opportunities are endless! Thank you and here is the link (and there’s a poster too below…let’s watch our community grow!

<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/signup/urmstonprimary>

**Continuing with E-Safety**

Keep an eye out for our monthly newsletter which hopefully will help with some valuable information on current apps, games and E-safety issues that your child (and us adults!) need help with. January’s issue will be emailed to you.

Have a lovely weekend!

Kind Regards,

*Mr Parker and Mr Doherty*

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