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Hothfield News

29th November 2016

Hothfield Spelling Bee

All our children are in training for our first Hothfield Termly Spelling Bee of the year. The children will be tested on their year group's spellings next week and every one they get right will be a point for their class. The winning class from each year group will be presented with a trophy in assembly. There are also individual awards for those who get 100%. This competition is held each term. We are using healthy competition to promote the importance of spelling. The words are quite challenging – for instance, in the Y3 and 4 list we have *separate*, *calendar*, *caught* and *potatoes*... In Y5 and 6 we have *conscience*, *accommodate* and *environment*... For the whole spelling curriculum and the full lists, click on the link on the website (Our Curriculum on the left-hand menu...)

Inspection

As you know, we were visited for two days last week by a team of inspectors from Ofsted. They spent most of their time here in classrooms – observing lessons, looking at the children's workbooks and talking to children about their learning and their school life.

The report will now be written and shared with all parents when it is published. We expect this to be within two weeks.

While I must await the official publication before commenting, I do want to pass on the thoughts of the inspectors about the most important people in the school – the Hothfielders themselves. The inspectors noted their 'exemplary manners'. They felt the children had a real pride in their school, trust and confidence in the adults that supported them and a very positive attitude to school and learning. I felt very proud of our children when the inspectors reported this to me – and I think parents should feel proud of their children too....

So much more news - especially of sporting success - and many photos on the school blog – just google 'Hothfield Blog' – and do leave a comment...!

Remembering Hothfield...

As we move towards the new Silsden Primary School in September, the Silsden Local History Group are very keen to capture memories of Hothfield School from its opening to more recent times. The group want to produce a book of these memories and so needs original material. Were you a pupil at the school in the past? Were you a member of staff? Do you have a memory or anecdote that you could share? Remembering a school trip, a particular teacher or lesson or a special occasion at school perhaps? Please go to the group's website (www.silsdenhistorygroup.com) and select the 'Contact' tab – there you or a family member or friend can jot down your memory or request that you can relate your memory to a member of the history group...

Making Christmas Special...

We finish the term well-before Christmas this year (on the 16th December), but we want our children to know all about the Christmas Story and the meaning and magic of Christmas.

Advent Assemblies over these next two weeks will be focussed on the advent themes of hope, peace, love and joy.

All our children are involved in a Production at some point over the year. Year 5 are performing next week.

On Friday 9th December the Parents Group are running their Christmas Shop (please send gift donations into school – collection box in the entrance hall).

On Tuesday 13th December we will be enjoying a pantomime together – ‘Beauty and the Beast’ presented by M and M Theatre Group.

On Wednesday 14th December it is the school Christmas Dinner.

Over the final week of term, Mrs Cloke will be taking the school choir to bring Christmas cheer to Silsden nursing homes.

On the final day of term, Friday 16th December, the whole school will gather at St James’ Church for our Christingle Service.

If children would like to wear a Christmas jumper on the last day of term, then they are welcome to do this... (No payment required – we have had our fundraisers for the term...)

Christmas Post box: If children want to send one-another Christmas cards, this should be done through our Christmas Post Box – which will be in the main corridor from next Monday – full names and class on the envelopes please.

Thank you for your support for the School Council’s fundraising for good causes this half term. The Non-Uniform Day for Children in Need raised £275 and sales of poppies and other items raised £287 for the Royal British Legion.

Severe Weather

We had our first bout of severe weather a couple of weeks ago so I thought it was worth making our policy clear:

As a rule, we are very reluctant to close the school if there is snow. If there has been a heavy snow fall overnight, then the key issue for deciding whether we could open would be how many of our staff are able to reach the school – many travelling from far afield - but we would have a determination to open for children’s learning even with a skeleton staff. This decision can usually be made by about 8.00am depending on the weather conditions on that day.

A clear message about whether we are open or not will be on the front page of our website and also available through the Bradford Schools Closure List (access through Google). We will also attempt to text a message. Finding out through our website is much better than phoning-in as we may not have anyone to answer the phone.

We will not close if there is heavy snowfall during the day. However, parents may want to make their own decision to collect their child early from school if they feel they are going to struggle to get them home safely at 3.30pm.

When we do get snowy weather, please ensure your child is sent to school properly equipped so they can enjoy the weather – particularly with named wellies or boots and some indoor shoes to change into.

Look out for the Parents Group Christmas raffle – tickets on sale from Monday before and after school... Fantastic prizes!

This is the last newsletter of the term. Please note that the school closes for the Christmas holidays on Friday 16th December and re-opens for the children on Wednesday, 4th January 2017.