

KEEVIL COFE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Up-coming Dates:
 6th Dec – Start of Reverse Advent Calendar
 w/c 13th Dec – video performances of Nativity and Christmas Concerts will be shared with parents
 16th Dec – ‘Save the Children’ Christmas Jumper Day
 16th Dec – Christmas lunch for children
 17th Dec – Last day of Term 2
 5th Jan – TD Day (SCHOOL CLOSED)
 6th Jan – Start of Term 3

In our Good Learning Book this week:
Winter: Well done to Poppy and Skylan for being Stars of the Week. Well done to all the children for putting so much effort into their nativity practice.
Spring: Well done to all of Spring class for the effort they have put into our Roman day this week, baking delicious Roman cookies and learning Roman numerals.
Summer: Well done to all of Summer Class for the positive way they approached their assessments last week. Also, well done to all the Year 5’s for showing great resilience during activities on their residential trip.
Autumn: Well done to all of Autumn class for showing great resilience during activities on their residential trip.

Message from the Head

I spent the first half of this week in Pencelli in the Brecon Beacons along with our Y5 and Y6 children on their residential trip. I was very struck by a session led by one of the brilliant instructors there, describing to the children being in a place of being stretched. One of the reasons we take the children on such trips is to enable them to be pushed outside of their comfort zone, as through facing the challenges and discomfort this brings to us all this is where they grow and develop the most. The instructor talked about the physical and emotional feelings they were all experiencing as they were being stretched, and the resilience and self-belief and pride they would develop as a result. We have all lived in a place of great fear and anxiety over the past 18 months, we have been encouraged and forced to shrink our lives and reduce risk and threat. The children have all found aspects of their week away incredibly challenging. Even more so than on previous trips. But they have been truly fantastic, and each and every one of them in their own ways have faced their fears and personal challenges and have overcome and triumphed. They will be exhausted when they return to school on Friday afternoon, but they will also be glowing and will have done and been something that they will remember and draw on for the rest of their lives. I am immensely proud of them all.

Such trips are not possible without the dedication of the school staff: those who go away, leaving their families and other responsibilities on others for the week; and those who remain behind in school and have to work extra hard to fill in the gaps left by those not here to ensure that learning and activities for all the other children continue unaffected. My heartfelt thanks goes to them all.

We have been incredibly lucky as a school community throughout the pandemic to date, as we have been relatively untouched by Covid. For those of you with older children or jobs that take you out more widely in the community, you will know that we are the exception not the rule. However, Covid cases are at the highest level they ever have been in our community, and are continuing to rise. We currently have 4 children and 1 member of staff out self-isolating. If we hit 10% of our community testing positive, Public Health become involved with the school and will instigate further measures, which would undoubtedly lead to us having to return to bubbles and operating as we did last year. None of us want that, we know the limitations that brings and the huge negative impact that this has on the children. We continue to follow the current measures we have in school to prevent the spread of infection, and appreciate everything that you are doing at home to support with this as well. I know there is

huge disappointment felt by all in our community this week – children, families and staff alike – at the decision to cancel live performances of Christmas shows. I understand that people have strong and differing views about this, which is absolutely everyone’s right. I will just re-iterate that the decision was made to protect the Christmas plans and celebrations of every child, family and staff member across the Trust. An outbreak in the last week of term would mean that potentially large numbers of our community would have to isolate and therefore have to cancel everything that they have arranged and looked forward to with their family and friends across the festive period. That is the last thing any of us want, and what we are endeavouring to prevent.

| House points | | | |
|--------------|---------|----------|----------|
| Kestrels | Ospreys | Buzzards | Harriers |
| 493 | 463 | 517 | 528 |

Children In Need

We raised a fantastic £211 for Children in Need with our pyjama day in school. Many thanks for your support with this.

Ruksak 45218 Donation

Wednesday 8th December is the last day for donations of Christmas gifts to be brought in for the Ruksak 45218 charity. We are very grateful for everything that has been given so far, and welcome any more sweets, toys, clothes, toiletries or other gifts you can spare for children and families in Wiltshire who are unable to afford to celebrate Christmas this year.



Keevil Christmas Tree Light Switch On

The Keevil Village Christmas Tree will have its lights turned on at 5:30pm outside the Village Hall on Saturday 11th December. It will be covered with decorations made by all the children in the school. Families are very welcome to go and see the tree and join in.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Our Reverse Advent Calendar begins in school on Monday 6th December. You should have received a letter from your child's class teacher giving you more details and a specific day for them to bring in their donation. We appreciate any contribution you can make towards the Christmas hampers we are creating for the Storehouse Foodbank in Trowbridge.

Drinks in School

Please can we remind you that drink bottles for children to access in the classrooms should only contain water. We have a number of children who are bringing in squash in these, and spillages have resulted in children's work being spoiled and extensive cleaning of classroom areas being required. Children are allowed to bring in a separate carton of juice or squash that they can drink with their lunch, but it should only be water in drink bottles. As well as there being a practical element to this, it is also about teaching and encouraging our children to lead healthy lifestyles. Many thanks for your co-operation with this.



Spring Class enjoying their Roman Day!