

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,



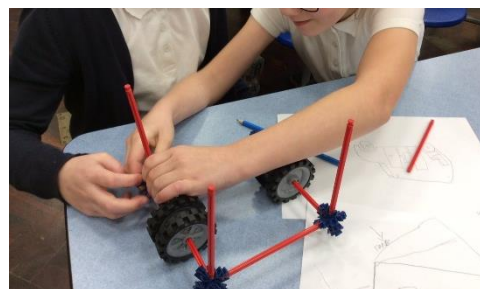
### We've had a fantastic start to the new year.

Last week 75 children attended the amazing Young Voices Choir event at Sheffield Arena. They spent the afternoon rehearsing with the Young Voices team before performing to a huge audience. Many of you came and I hope you enjoyed the experience. All the children were absolutely brilliant – a real pleasure to take out. They sang all the way there in the coach and all the way back! Well done to everyone and thank you to Mrs Summerbridge for once again organising it and preparing the children so well.



Anning and Goodall Classes have been hunting, gathering and learning all about life in the Stone Age. This has included outdoor sessions including learning about how fire was made for cooking. Our Stone Age fire pit is in the school garden. Please would you ensure your children do not enter this area after school. Children in year 3 may be watching it to see if there has been any evidence from the Stone Age left there during the week!

All the classes will be exploring and creating with KNEX this week. This is an aspect of our design and technology programme that they really appear to enjoy.



The Public Speaking launch assembly has now taken place. Please see January news or pop and speak to Miss Holmes or the class teachers if you need further information. Please encourage your child to settle on a subject of their choice and be starting to gather the facts / information that they would like to form part of their presentation.

### Online Safety and Electronic Devices in School.

You will have received an invitation to come into school at 1pm on 28<sup>th</sup> January. We have organised for a specialist to come and speak to you to help you with online safety as a parent. She is brilliant and knows so much. Please do come if you can. Her website is endorsed by DCC (she spoke at one of our forums) and has material on there that will help too. Our website also has the link to the digital parenting magazine.

Following the Christmas break, it appears that some children have happily received some super gifts including electronic devices such as smart watches and valuable mobile phones. Please know that electronic devices, mobile phones and smart watches – or any device that has internet capability – are not allowed in school and are deemed prohibited items. If a child does bring such a device into school, they are asked to hand it in (named) to the office for safekeeping prior to registration and collect it at the end of

the day. I must reiterate that school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to any valuable items brought to school. If they fail to hand it in and it is confiscated, we will ask a parent or nominated adult to collect it.

Some children have activity trackers – Fitbits. These appear to have evolved from activity trackers solely used to tell the time and track steps (therefore not presenting an issue in school), to activity trackers with built in capability such as messages or synchronised functions with phones or other devices. I understand you can turn these functions off. However, we are not in a position to check this or spend valuable learning time doing so. Ideally these would be kept for use at home and if they do have any messaging or internet capability they will be treated by staff as smart watches. This is an ever evolving area and is currently in line with our secondary partner schools.

### **INSET DAYS**

I have liaised with our Infant School partners to agree training days next academic year.

These are as follows:

- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021

The fifth INSET day has not yet been decided as we would like to consider opportunities involving external providers that may not have been released yet. We will inform you of this date when we know, giving as much notice as possible.

### **PFA Winter Warmer**

The children are preparing a poster to send to you to remind you that we'd love you to join us from 2.15pm to 4pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January for a drink and a bite to eat. If you can help on the day, please do get in touch as soon as possible.

### **Recycling and Rubbish Bin Design Competition**

School Council are running a competition to replace the bins in the playground. If your child would like to join in, they just need to create a picture on A4 portrait paper of any design. We've suggested they may include aspects of the school motto (safe, Smile Succeed) or recycling / sustainability messages etc. They have until Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January to hand their entry in. We aim to have the winning design made into a new bin for each playground.

Very best wishes, Catherine Holmes