

Newsletter 17

Friday 29th January 2021

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A Winter Wonderland

The snow brought some much needed relief to us all this week, transforming the landscape and enticing us out in to the fresh air. As snow is such a rare visitor to the east of England, thanks to our changing climate, it was an opportunity that proved too much to resist. The playgrounds and field were covered with that wonderful, compacted, powdery snow that creaks underfoot—perfect conditions for snow angels and snowballs. The children in school spent their break and lunchtime on the school field rolling giant snow balls to create some wonderful snowmen. Incredibly, the snowmen are still there as I write, even though the snow disappeared two days ago. Some of you have been sending me photographs of your own snow creations which have been lovely to see. It has also been great to hear that many of you have been enjoying observing and counting the birds who have been visiting your garden this week as part of the big garden birdwatch.

Mrs Howell

Hope Against Poverty



This week we have been very fortunate to receive a donation of laptops from Mr Mahesh Hettiarachchi who runs the Cambourne based charity, Hope Against Poverty. These laptops will be loaned to families who do not have devices to enable their children to access remote learning. We are very grateful to Mr Hettiarachchi and Hope Against Poverty for providing this vital support for children in our school community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Hettiarachchi for this very generous donation and his continuing support for the children at Monkfield Park.

Please contact the school office if you do not have access to a computer as we may be able to provide you with a device on loan for the period of the lockdown.

Monday Morning Assembly with Mrs Howell

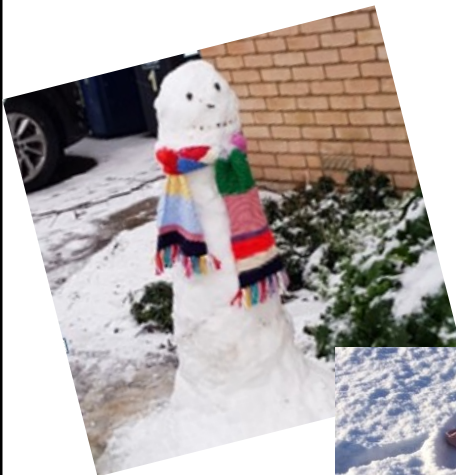
It has been wonderful to see so many of you joining me for my assembly on Monday mornings. I hope we have been able to iron out any teething problems and that you will all be able to join me at 9.15 am each Monday. The teachers will post the link on Teams on Monday morning.

On Monday morning's assembly —1st February, have ready a piece of paper and a couple of pens for an activity we will be doing together.



Snow Learning

Many thanks to Daksh in Year 6 and Jyotesh in Year 5 for sending me these photographs of their jolly snowmen. I know these wonderful, Winter activities cheered everyone up and brought a smile to all our faces. Thank you to everyone for braving the cold.



The Big Garden Birdwatch

Following my assembly on Monday morning, I was delighted to hear that so many of you have been enjoying observing the birds who have been visiting your gardens and bird tables over the last few days. If you want to take part there is still time as the Big Garden Birdwatch officially runs until Sunday 31st January and you have until 19th February if you want to submit your results online at:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/submit-results/>

Jessica in Year 4 has really got the birdwatching bug and sent me some of her fantastic photographs of the birds who have been visiting her garden. This week she has spotted starlings, wagtails, robins, blackbirds and crows. Well done Jessica.





Children's Mental Health Week

The week of 1st to 7th February is Children's Mental Health Week when we shine a spotlight on the very important issue of children's mental health. This year this is more important than ever as we are acutely aware of the impact the current lockdown and the pandemic are having on children's mental health and emotional wellbeing.

The theme for this year is Express Yourself so we will be looking at the ways in which we can share our thoughts, feelings and ideas through creativity across the week.

Why not visit Place 2Be's website to find suggestions for lots of creative and fun ideas:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

Wellbeing Activities

BAFTA Kids

BAFTA Kids has enlisted some famous faces to share its film, TV and game recommendations to help inspire children, and keep families entertained whilst they're at home.

Ben Shires, CBBC Presenter says:

"We all know how important being creative and using our imagination is for mental wellbeing. Films, games and TV can transport us to new worlds, help us understand our own emotions or simply make us laugh."

See what family friendly films, games and television shows he recommends that you watch while you're spending time at home at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Zb26rZS1Ls&list=PLgh4yJG32JS-b7gk--CZ0BDASkwrXNFP>

Perhaps you can come up with a list of your own recommendations for your family and friends and include some of your favourite books too.

RHS—Bringing the Sunshine Inside

The Royal Horticultural Society has lots of wonderful activities to support children's emotional wellbeing.

Try growing some saucer veg

With a little time and patience there are vegetables that you can re-grow again and again from kitchen scraps!

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Resources/Activity/Saucer-veg>

Grassy creatures

Create a simple character with growing grassy hair, plan its care programme - not forgetting a trip to the barbers!

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Resources/Activity/Make-a-growing-grassy-creature>

