



# Edgewood Primary School

**Building skills and values for life**

20<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. I hope you have all made your appointments for parents evening, and I look forward to seeing you. In response to your feedback, some of our governors will be serving tea and coffee while you wait for your appointments. We will also be showing a presentation on the Growth Mindset work we are completing in school as well as asking you for your feedback about school.

## **Attendance**

Thank you to everyone who attended one of the two information sessions about our new attendance policy. It was good to know that, despite some of you expressing initial concerns, you agreed we had set a good middle ground with our new policy.

If you are still unaware of the changes please read either the full policy or the summary for parents on our new website.

We have delayed implementing some of the changes to give everyone time to make themselves aware of the changes or attend an information session but the first letters for children with attendance below 95% will be going out next week. At your parents evenings appointments your child's class teacher will also be speaking to you about attendance if it is currently below the 95% level and especially if it is below the threshold for persistent absence (90%).

Congratulations to Red Class who had 99.1% attendance last week.

## **Fundraising**

A few people have questioned why we didn't take part in Children in Need activities this week. All our fundraising activity is decided by our school council and they decided this term to support other charities that have a much lower national television and radio presence than Children in Need.

Already this year we have held a Macmillan Coffee morning which raised £189.76; we sent 4 car loads of food to Under One Roof to support local families in need; and we sent 12 shoeboxes to children abroad supporting Operation Christmas Child. We also sold poppies and lots of associated wrist bands, toys and other items to support the Royal British Legion in the same week as Children in Need, as well as holding a disco and selling tea towels to raise money for Friends of Edgewood PTA which supports your children's extra-curricular events amongst other things.

Along with this we will be supporting Save the Children on the 18<sup>th</sup> December by holding a Christmas Jumper Day, and holding our own Christmas Fair on the 11<sup>th</sup> December. In the rest of the year we will be supporting Comic Relief, alongside other charities and events to be decided by our School Council.

As a school we always try to be mindful that we ask so much of you as parents and while you are all incredibly generous, we do not want to overstretch that goodwill and always seem to ask you for more. For this reason we try to carefully select which events we support, and to support worthwhile charities that would be more difficult for you to support in other ways. With the TV show and Radio 2 events over the week it is easy for everyone to call in and donate to Children in Need, but it isn't as straightforward for other charities so we feel they need our support more. We felt, as we are currently 100 years on from the horrific events of the First World War, that the Poppy appeal, which doesn't have a direct TV or radio appeal, deserves our support, as well as our remembrance, now more than ever.

## **Website**



Our new website launched over half term but some people are still saying they are directed to the old site. This might be because your favourites are still set to the old site so please make sure you have it pointed to [www.edgewoodprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.edgewoodprimaryschool.co.uk)

## **Internet Safety**

Can I please send out a plea for you all to carefully monitor your children's use of social media and the internet if you aren't already? Every day there is another new app or website that children are using to chat to others but they are all open to abuse by other children or older people. We do a lot of work in school with children on how to keep themselves safe and there is some excellent information out there to help you reinforce that message at home including the NSPCC website, <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> which is well worth a read.

CEOP have also produced a video aimed at 8-10 year olds which is well worth watching as a parent to really bring home the potential risks of unsupervised use of the internet. You can find this online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8auwnJtqE>

Please also remember that while we are careful in school to discuss the dangers of the internet and social media, used appropriately, they are a fantastic resource that children shouldn't be scared of using.

## **Remembrance Events**

As a school we all observed the two minutes silence to remember all those that have died in wars and conflicts around the world on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of November. With the recent horrific events in Paris, we also held a minute's silence to remember the dead and injured there and to think about their loved ones.

I know some parents feel concerned about their children being exposed to the horrific events happening in the world today, as well as those from the past, but as a school these are always approached in an age-appropriate way and without ever going into details, unless they are brought up by the children. For example, children in Red and Green classes took the opportunity to appreciate their fortune in being cared for safely both at school and at home, while older children discussed the news events in a manner more suited to them.

In today's connected world it is often the case that children have seen snippets of information on the web, TV or radio. For children in Key Stage 2, the BBC Newsround service is often a very good way of approaching these difficult issues in a way which suits a young audience.

## **Paying money to school**

We are now able to use childcare vouchers for payments for trips and music tuition. To find out more please see Mrs Reader in the office.

Please remember that we are always able to stagger payments so you can pay in instalments if it will help. Please see myself or Mrs Reader if you would ever like to do this.

Mr Seeley  
Headteacher