Towers Times

Newsletter 13th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a beautiful Autumnal week it has been! As we write our weekly newsletter, the sun is shining and the children are enjoying playing outside as the leaves swirl down from the trees. Everyone looks so colourful today for our non-uniform day in aid of Children in Need. We had a wonderful virtual assembly today, all about our heroes! We reflected that actually not all heroes wear capes, and that there is a little hero in all of us.

On Wednesday morning, we 'live streamed' our Remembrance service across the Federation. The children were so respectful, and were true role models in the way that they conducted themselves and observed the two minutes silence. Armistice Day was also a really good opportunity to reflect upon our current school value of 'UNITY' and how it is shown by current and past members of our armed forces.

A huge thank you for your generosity this week, your donations have been gratefully received and we are so pleased to have raised so much money for two wonderful charities; the British Legion and Children in Need. We will let you know final figures of monies raised as soon as we receive them. Thank you!

We hope you enjoyed our Zoom parents' evenings this week. We are all rapidly becoming experts with the new ways of working remotely, and we thank you for supporting us with these new procedures. If you do have any problems with accessing information, please do contact us and we will work with you in any way that we can.

As I am sure many of you are aware, in "normal times" it is at this time of year that we start to get very excited and plan the Christmas Concerts, which we know are a great source of delight and pleasure for both our children and parents. Whilst we will be unable to invite parents on site for the Christmas Concerts this year, as we would usually have done, please do not despair! In true Towers style, our amazing Teachers, have been working with all the staff to come up with an alternative plan! This year we will be compiling a video celebration of all things Christmassy, which will include contributions from all of the children at our school. We are very much looking forward to sharing it with you. We don't want to give too much away at the moment, as we wouldn't want to spoil the surprise!

In the interests of safety, can we please ask that children stay with their adults whilst in the queue to enter the Infant site, we are seeing more and more children running from one side of the pavement to another. Please can we remind you this is still a road and delivery vehicles may still delivery items, regardless of the school drop off and collection times. Can we also kindly ask, in the interests of all our safety, that once you leave the school site in Windsor Road, you leave the area around the school as swiftly as possible, and do not congregate in groups that may make it difficult for other pedestrians to pass by. We also ask that you do not allow your children to play in the gardens of our neighbours during drop off and collection times.

We are extremely grateful for all the heartfelt messages of support and tokens of appreciation. Whilst we may not be able to respond individually to all of your messages, they are always passed on to teachers and other school staff.

Notices

Application for PRIMARY schools closes 15th January 2021. Please visit https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20008/school_admissions/479/apply_for_an_infant_junior_or_primary_school_place_for_september

Diary dates

Dates published including school holidays and training days are publiched on our schools website for reference under Key Info/term dates

Attendance

During the week commencing 2nd November our attendance was as follows:-

NURSERY	100%
RECEPTION	98.1%
YEAR 1	97.2%
YEAR 2	96.8%
YEAR 3	98.7%
YEAR 4	97.6%
YEAR 5	95.8%
YEAR 6	96.3%

Stay connected

Please do sign up to twitter as this is our social media platform sharing highlights of school life and messages with the community. To connect please use the following handles @TowersInfant @TowersJuniorSch
Don't forget also any questions or queries you may have each year group does have their own email addresses too.

Hands Face Space

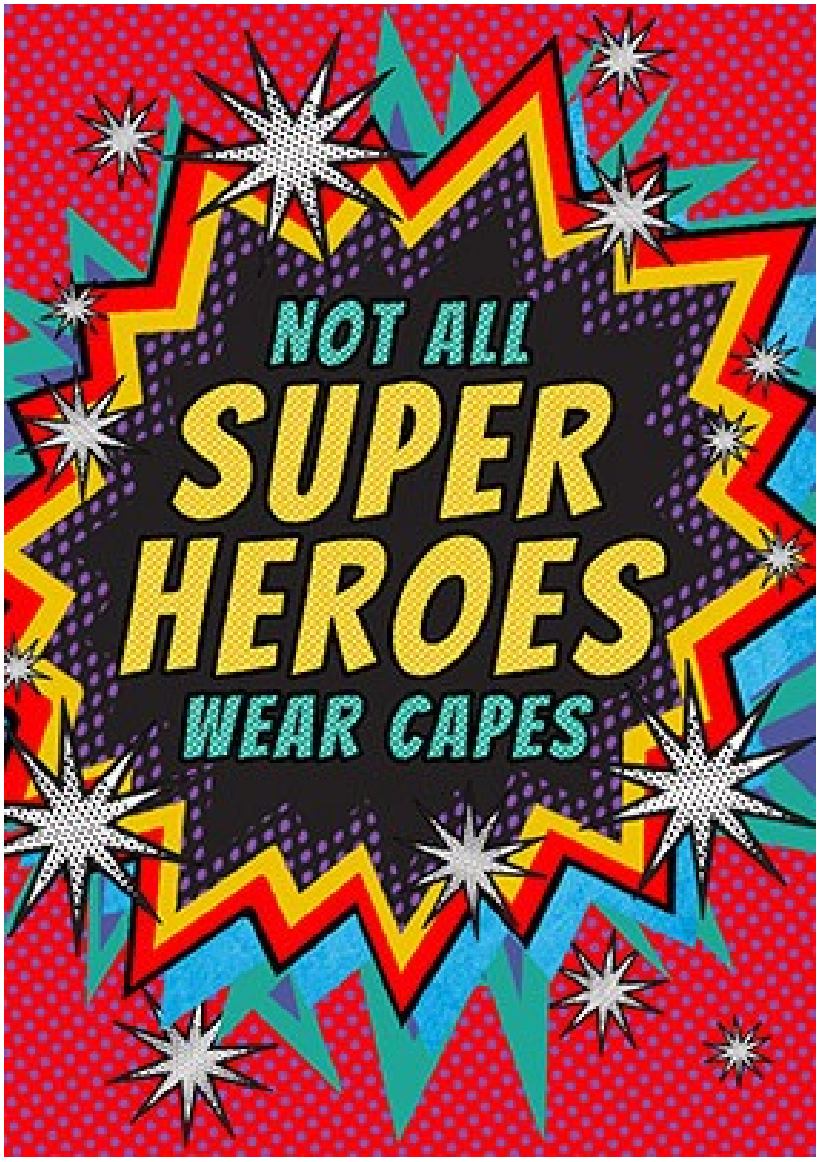
Let's all continue to do our best to protect ourselves and our families in these uncertain times, and in relation to this, please could we remind all parents/carers and visitors to the school that they need to wear a face mask whilst on site

To mark the start of Friend Ship Week, we will be holding 'Odd Socks Day' on Monday 16th November. To celebrate that we are all unique, we ask that all children from Nursery to Year Six wear odd socks to school. Last year over 13,000 schools took part in Odd Socks Day. The day sends an important message to pupils that they should be allowed to be themselves free from bullying and helps us celebrate Friendship Week in a fun and positive way. If you want to, you can share a photo of you in your odd socks on Twitter. We look forward to seeing you all in your odd socks!

Have a lovely weekend,

Take care and stay safe team Towers,

Ms L J Blurton and Mrs C D Hurley
Head Teachers of Towers Infant and Junior schools



HM Government

NHS

CORONAVIRUS
NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS

5 November to 2 December

National restrictions apply to England:

Meeting Indoors
You cannot meet anybody socially indoors unless they are in your household or support bubble.

Meeting Outdoors
You can meet with 1 person from another household in outdoor public spaces, following social distancing. Children under 5 and anyone dependent on continuous care do not count towards the 2 person limit.

Weddings and Funerals
Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies can only take place where one of those getting married is seriously ill and not expected to recover. Funerals can take place with up to 30 people in attendance.

Working from home
You must work from home if you can. If you cannot work from home you should continue to go to work (unless you are clinically extremely vulnerable).

Essential Shops
Open. Essential shops should follow COVID-secure guidelines.

Non-essential Retail
Closed. Can only open for click-and-collect and delivery services.

Exercise
You can exercise outside on your own or with your household; your support bubble; or one person from another household.

Leisure and Gyms
Closed. Except for allotments and outdoor playgrounds.

Hospitality
Closed except for takeaway, click-and-collect, drive through and delivery services. Takeaway not permitted after 22:00.

Education
Early years, schools and FE colleges open. Universities must reflect wider restrictions.

Healthcare Services
You can leave home for any medical reason.

Residential Care
Care homes are encouraged to provide safe, COVID-secure visiting opportunities. See the guidance for details on how to keep visits safe.

Travel
You must not travel in the UK or overseas other than for permitted reasons, including work, education, medical reasons, caring responsibilities or for essential retail.

Public Transport
You may still use public transport, but should only travel for permitted reasons and should look to reduce the number of journeys you make, avoid travelling at peak times, and walk or cycle where you can.

Overnight Stays
Overnight stays and holidays away from primary residences are not allowed, except for work and other exempt purposes.

Entertainment and tourism
Entertainment venues are closed. Public gardens at visitor attractions are open.

Vulnerable People
If you are 60+ or clinically vulnerable, be especially careful to follow the rules and minimise contacts with others. If you are clinically extremely vulnerable you are advised to stay at home as much as possible, except to go outdoors for exercise or to attend essential health appointments.

Worship
Closed. Except for: funerals, broadcasting acts of worship, and individual prayer.

Childcare
Registered childcare and childcare activities open to enable parents to work, or for respite care. Parents can form a childcare bubble with another household for informal childcare, where the child is 13 or under.

Youth Clubs and Activities
Some youth services are able to continue, such as 1-1 youth work and support groups, but most youth clubs and groups will need to cease for this period.

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
gov.uk/coronavirus

HANDS FACE SPACE

Don't forget to enter our Christmas Colouring / Poem Competition - winners will feature in our Christmas Virtual Fayre Brochure! See our ParentMail message sent out 6th November for more information.

Join our Christmas Virtual Fayre Event on Facebook at:-
https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsoftowerschristmasfayre. Information about games and prizes will be posted up until the event on the 28th November - great prizes to be won!

Start supporting our School Lottery - Tickets cost £1 and our first draw is on the 14th November! There is a local cash prize every week and a chance to win £25K jackpot. Sign up at http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk. All profits go to Towers!!!

Christmas Virtual Fayre - 28th November: Email us at towersparentsa@yahoo.com if you are interested in having a virtual stall. We are also desperately looking for raffle prizes, so please get in touch if you can help or know someone who maybe willing to donate!

Don't forget to complete the **Summer Sports Challenge** over the half-term - if you have already completed it, contact us via email to get your certificate and details on how to donate your sponsorship money.