



Bottisham CPS Newsletter 01.12.23





1 - Headteacher Update

Dear All

It is time to open those windows on our advent calendars, and if you haven't already, put up your Christmas decorations and perhaps some Christmas tunes...For me, it is time to get out my festive socks and ties and enjoy a few mince pies. I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the PTA and staff volunteers, and I hope everyone who comes can enjoy the Christmas Fair.

I have just finished putting up the Christmas hoops in the hall with the help of Mr Donaghy, our site supervisor. The theme this year is the Twelve Days of Christmas and all of the classes have worked really hard creatively putting them together. We hope that you get an opportunity to see them at the Christmas Fair or during the KS1 Nativity performances. I'm sure your child will want to show you their little part in the work.

We have decided to reintroduce some additional health and safety measures at the beginning and the end of the school day, meaning that the staff car park gates will be closed for this short period of time. We are also installing some better outdoor lighting as we have noticed particular areas of the school are poorly lit at this time of the year.

You may have noticed that the school bus is needing to park in the upper bus bay. This is due to the overhanging branches in the lower bay obstructing the bus. We have raised this with the people responsible for these trees and we appreciate everyone's patience while we wait for this work to be done.

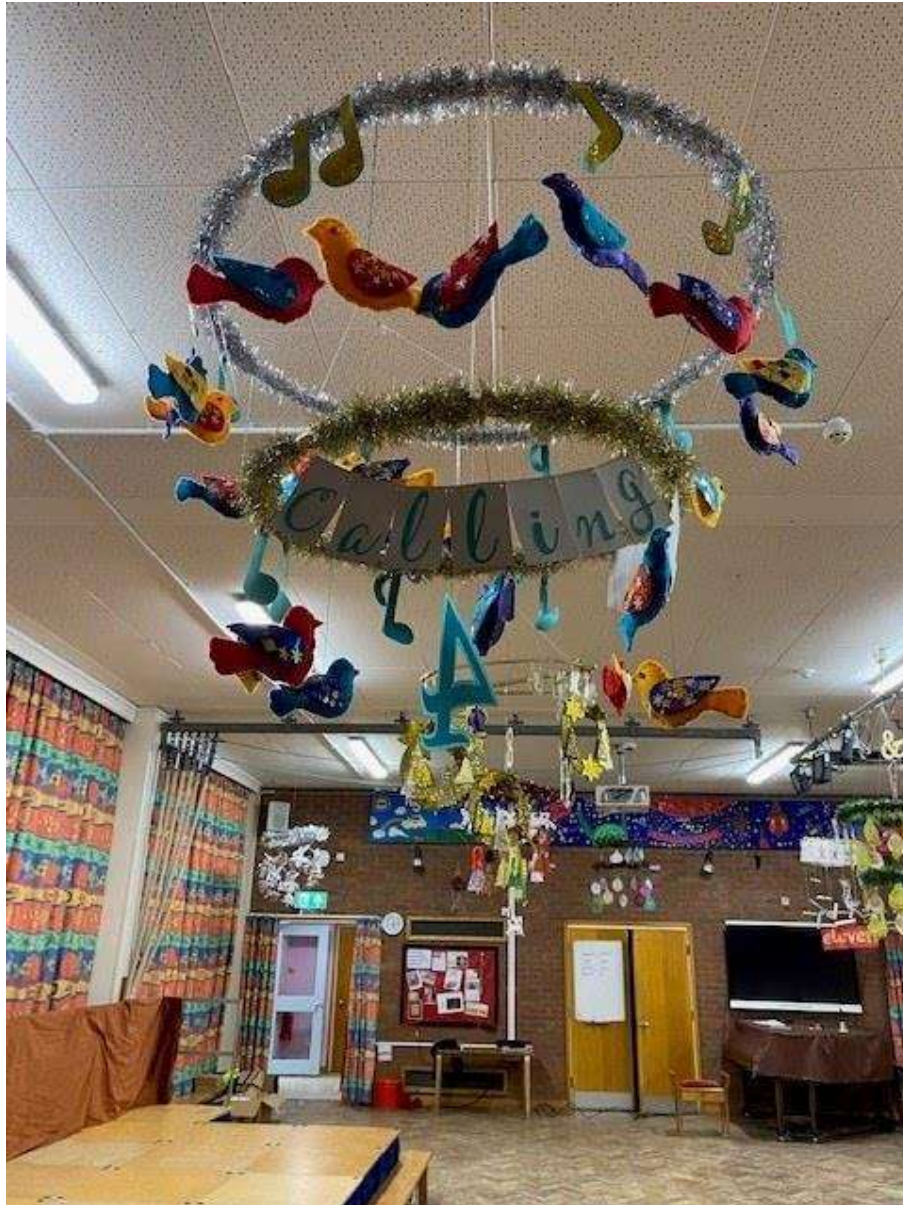
Therefore, can we please ask that everyone avoids parking opposite the bus bay, or on the corner of Maple Close, and parks further up Beechwood Avenue. This will really help with the safety of everyone and ensure traffic can continue to flow. The school bus is entitled to park in the bus bay and will need to wait for a period of time until all of the pupils have been safely transported into the school building. Thank you for your cooperation with these changes.

It was a pleasure to see Elm class perform their class assembly this week celebrating all of their learning this half term, with a particular focus on the Egyptians. My own personal highlight was the part of the assembly when every child individually stood up and celebrated why they are all unique.

Thank you to Mrs Rayment and Mrs McMahon for all of their hard work this term and for put the assembly together.

Kind regards

Mr Askew



2 - Pine class hoop, 4 calling birds...



3 - Captain James Scotto inspiring KS1 pupils about being a fighter pilot



It was a real pleasure to meet Captain James Scotto last week. James is one of our parents, and he kindly volunteered to deliver an assembly to our KS1 pupils about what it is like to fly F15 fighter planes. He explained all about his flying kit and how he trained to be able to fly these amazing planes. He then answered plenty of great questions asked by the pupils. The pupils and staff found it very interesting and hopefully inspiring too.



4 - We are asking children to bring in a voluntary donation of £1 on Thursday 7th December, and wear a Christmas jumper. Remember, you don't need to necessarily buy a brand new jumper for this event as children could decorate an old jumper instead.



5 - Gerald the Giraffe all ready to be collected...

With the help of Mrs Palmer, we have embarked on another Cambridge art project which is on the theme of 'standing tall' and celebrating individuality. Every class contributed to painting a section and this piece of art which became affectionately known as 'Gerald' from the children's book Giraffes Can't Dance.

It will be on display around the city and once we learn about the location we will of course let you know.





This term, in Acorn Class the children have been exploring movement.

In the classroom we looked at how cars travelled down a slope and how we could make the cars travel faster or slower by altering the angle of the slope.

In the playground the children investigated how different objects, solids and liquids, travelled down the slopes we built.



6 - Here is a reminder, if you haven't already completed the Parent Survey.

link: <https://edurio.com/teacher/poll/OTArXD>

The New Ash Class

If you are familiar with the school, you will know that in recent years Ash Class has been a Reception Class. This year, Ash Class has undergone a change of identity and is now a room for supporting pupils across the school who need a bit of extra space.

Mrs Isbell, Mrs Preston and Mrs Gokool staff the class, supporting pupils with their learning in small groups and running targeted interventions. Just like everyone else, the pupils in Ash Class study English and maths, but other Ash Class activities look less familiar. Cooking, Lego and Friendship Group are among the subjects on the timetable.

Although most children love outdoor play, some find the busyness of the playground and lunch hall a little overwhelming. Ash Class is available at these less structured times of day for those whose teachers recommend it. There is even a mini assembly as an alternative to the main assembly in the hall.

We will be raising funds to equip the New Ash Class, so look out for opportunities to get involved and have some fun later in the year.

Kate Kelly

SENCO

New mental health text line - HEAR 85258

A new mental health free text messaging support service has launched in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to help those who are struggling to cope.

Launched by NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and in partnership with the national service SHOUT¹, the free to use text service HEAR 85258 provides real-time support to people of all ages who are struggling with their mental health.

When texting the word HEAR to 85258, the person will be connected to a trained volunteer who will take them from a place of crisis to a place of calm. During the confidential and anonymous conversation, the texter will be supported and signposted to local and national mental health services.

Texting HEAR to 85258 is free, discreet and runs 24/7. It won't appear on any bills and requires no app, data, password, or registration. It is available for anybody who lives, works, or studies in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

For more information about what mental health services are available in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, visit www.keep-your-head.com².

If you feel your or somebody's life is at risk due to their mental health, dial 111 and listen for the option for the mental health crisis team.

Autumn 2023 Important Dates and Events	
When	Event
04.12.23	Flu vaccinations taking place for Reception to Year 6 pupils
05.12.23	History off the Page. Life in Ancient Egypt – Years 3/4
06.12.23	PTA event Wreath-making evening 6:45 (Tickets required) Adults only event
07.12.23	Christmas jumper day - £1 donation for Save the Children
11.12.23	KS1 Nativity performance – 2:15 pm Parents invited
12.12.23	KS1 Nativity performance – 2:15 pm Parents invited
12.12.23	KS2 Carol Concert – Trinity Church
13.12.23	KS1 Nativity performance – 2:15 pm Parents invited
13.12.23	Christmas Dinner
14.12.23	PTA Christmas <u>Elfridges</u> – In school event
14.12.23	Early Years Sing Along – morning event (time tbc) - parents invited to come
19.12.23	Rocksteady Music Concert - morning performance (time tbc) Parents of band members invited
19.12.23	Christmas Sing Along Assembly – In school event
19.12.23	Last day of term

¹<https://giveusashout.org/>

²<http://www.keep-your-head.com/>