

Message from Miss Fendley . . we've had another very busy, *and long*, half term with lots of things happening and still more to do! As well as my routine tours around the school, I also had the privilege of joining Yr. 5 on their science-based trip to the Space Centre, Leicester. The whole day was so interesting, the children were very well behaved and asked lots of fact-finding questions; which I was most impressed with. Yr. 4 enjoyed a lovely day at Roydon Common, at the kind invitation of Norfolk Wildlife Trust, on Friday, 11th Oct. Teaching staff said that the NWT rangers were very informative and our pupils had a fabulous al fresco jam packed learning day, as even the weather was superb too! Hope everyone enjoys a well-earned break, I'm sure many of the children and the 'young at heart' will be dressing up for Halloween and, no doubt, getting ready for firework displays and parties as well. Without being an absolute killjoy, all I'm going to say is: *please remember not all children (and some elderly people too) enjoy fireworks or Halloween characters.* Enjoy yourselves but keep safe.

Maypole revamp

We would like to provide you all with an update regarding our sorry-looking Maypole. Following last month's newsletter entry, announcing its likely 'retirement', we have been notified by one of our parents that it is, in fact, repairable! On the strength of this fantastic news, we are ordering new ribbons to complete the facelift for our maypole. Prepare yourselves to be entertained by our pupils next year, hopefully they will be weaving their 'magic' again.

School day start & finish times

When we return to school on **MONDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER**, following our half term break, all classes from **Reception through to Yr. 6 will be STARTING at 8.30 A.M. and FINISHING at 3 P.M.** Times for our Nursery Unit (Fir Class) will remain as they are at present. Entrance and exit gates (Community Centre carpark & main gate at front of school) will open 8.20 a.m./2.50 p.m. and close at 8.35 a.m./3.05 p.m. **Reminder for breakfast club users:** session time will run 7.30 - 8.30 a.m., at a cost of £2.50. Pupils can enter at any time throughout the hour period. N.B. if children require toast, they must arrive no later than 8.15 a.m.

Bikeability sessions

Two Bikeability tutors have recently been in school with us (w/c: Monday, 7th Oct), passing on their knowledge of safer cycling and road sense, to a group of our Yr. 5 pupils (please see below). This is a 'rolling programme' for our older pupils. The gentlemen are likely to be back with us again in the near future, to offer their services to another band of bike users. There is no charge attached to the cycle training, however, the tutors do insist that all cycles used by children, are in road-worthy condition and that all cyclist are kitted out with a good fitting cycle helmet. Spaces on the cycling proficiency groups are limited and given on a 'first come, first served' basis. If your child brings home a slip about Bikeability, please ensure you reply swiftly if they wish to take a place.



Next phase of school improvement

Once again, we'll be joined by the building team as the next phase of the school 'facelift' will take shape. Internally, all areas within school, will receive a little well-earned 'TLC' by means of a lick of paint and new floor coverings. Hopefully over half-term/next few weeks, internal corridors from the School Hall towards both Yr. 6 & Reception Classes, will be the next areas to receive some attention.

Non-uniform day FRIDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER

Children wishing to take part in this fundraising, non-uniform day, are asked to bring in a donation to school, for us to collectively send off to **Children in Need**. All funds received by the charity will be used to assist with the needs of disadvantaged children.



School meal taster session for Parents & Carers - 14th November

Our new catering services, Aspens, would like to invite our parents and carers to join them for a school meal tasting session in the school hall on Thursday, 14th November at 2.30 p.m. Please drop by and join us if you can, your *feed*-back would be most welcome! Aspens have provided us with a new 'tweaked' copy of their original 3 week menu rota and a fresh copy of this will be emailed to you.

Anti-bullying Week, commencing Monday, 11th November

Although this subject is very much featured in our day-to-day routine and the work cover with all pupils at school, we will be using a special anti-bullying assembly as a start point, to emphasise the importance of finding ways of resolving differences and being nicer to each other, rather than resorting to use unkind words or hands.

NSPCC volunteers in school

Towards the end of November, we are welcoming some NSPCC volunteers in school, they will be doing some work to raise awareness with certain year groups on the topic of 'Speak Out, Stay Safe', promoting children's safety with respect to stranger danger.

Armistice Day respect to be shown by Reffley Academy staff and pupils

Pupils throughout the school will be using different styles of artwork to acknowledge the sacrifice made by our service personnel, including animals, who've lost their life during conflicts. As this can be a very delicate subject to make children aware of, all lessons will be 'age-appropriate' and offered in the most sensitive way possible. As in previous years, children and staff, will take part in an outside assembly on the back playground, which will include a two-minute silence to show our respect.

Merchandise will be on sale

As from 4th November, poppies and other merchandise connected with Remembrance Day, will be on sale at break and lunchtimes, if children would like to bring in some change.

THURSDAY, 24TH OCT - HALF TERM BREAK, CHILDREN RETURN ON MONDAY, 4TH NOV REMINDERS AND DIARY DATES

11 th November	Assembly to highlight anti-bullying week and Armistice Day
14 th November	School meal taster session provided by Aspens
15 th November	charity non-uniform day for Children in Need
21 st November	Bonfire meal promotion - please book in usual way on Pupil Asset
Wed., 11 th December	Yr. 3 trip to London to see Matilda, the musical
Wed., 18 th December	Christmas lunch being served - more details to follow