



We have a very busy term leading up to Christmas and everyone is starting to feel Christmassy with decorations going up and festive activities going on.

### Our Vision and Values

We have some new signs up in an around school with our values on, thank you for attending our 'craftanoon' and

assembly at the end of October to celebrate the launch. It was lovely to see so many families support this.

### Staff Changes

Mrs Smith will be leaving us at the end of this term. As many of you will know Mrs Smith has recently completed her PHD and she wants to turn her research into a book, she is not able to do this whilst teaching. We want to thank her for her hard work in school, in class and in her role as SENCo. Mrs Smith will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best for the future.

We have appointed a new class teacher who will start in April, she is very experienced, and we look forward to her joining us. Mr Rowell will be teaching from January until April in Elm Class. The children have all met Mr Rowell when he was in class last week.

### Children in Need and The Poppy Appeal

Thank you for your charity donations this year, for Children in Need we raised £62 and for The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal we collected over £120.

### Flu Vaccinations

The Immunisation Team are in school on 12<sup>th</sup> December for any children that missed out last time, you can register anytime before 11<sup>th</sup> December if you would like to add your child to the list. There is a link on Class Dojo to follow if you would like to register. Vaccinations will not be given if we do not have permission for your child to have it.

### Nativity Play

Children in Ash Class and Elm Class are busy rehearsing for their Nativity Play this week in the Village Hall. We can hear lots of singing and have seen some lovely costumes coming in. There will be two performances, one at 10am and the other at 5pm. These children need to be back in school for 4.30pm to get ready for the evening performance. Please send a message on Class Dojo to Mrs Matthews to book your tickets and they will be given out on Wednesday. They are limited to two per child for each performance, due to space in the Village Hall. Please see us if this causes a problem.

### Christmas Lunch



A big thank you to Adam Clark Custom Colour Coatings for your generous donation of a Christmas Lunch for everyone. There was Christmas songs, tasty dinners and some dancing. Everyone made a Christmas hat in the morning and had a lovely festive time.



Hope



Perseverance



Forgiveness



Kindness



Respect



Responsibility

### **Friends of Cowbit - Christmas Fair**

The Christmas Fair is this Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, this will run straight from school. Please come along and show your support. There will be games, a raffle, chocolate tombola, some craft stalls and a cake stall. Santa will also be here with presents (there will be a small charge). If you would like a craft stall or you would like to help run a stall please speak to Mrs Matthews or Mrs Cornwell as we always need helpers!

### **Friends of Cowbit - Christmas Film Night**

Friends of Cowbit are holding a Christmas Film night with pizza and popcorn on 16<sup>th</sup> December straight from school until 5.30pm. They will also be decorating Christmas biscuits. Tickets are £3 and there is a sign up board in Reception.

### **Pantomime**

This year's pantomime is Snow White and we will be travelling by Coach to The South Centre in Spalding on 18<sup>th</sup> December. The children can come into school with a Christmas Jumper on instead of their uniform jumpers. All children will receive an ice cream in the interval, and we will be back at school in time for lunch so usual lunch arrangements will be in place. If you haven't paid for your ticket, please do so as soon as possible or speak to Mrs Leonard or Mrs Matthews if there is a problem. As the school has grown in size we do not have any additional tickets this year to offer for parent helpers this year.

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club is open every day at 7.30am. A charge of £3.50 is made which includes breakfast and entertainment. There is a variety of activities each week including arts and crafts, lego, games and TT Rockstars. Every day we will take a register for Breakfast Club and you will then see an outstanding balance in your Parent Pay account. This can then be paid by you on a regular basis. There is a discount if you attend all week as the price will be reduced to £15 for the full week. There is also a sibling discount, where if two or more children from the same family attend, the cost will be reduced to £2.50 per child.

### **Class Dojo**

Every family has been invited to Class Dojo. Please join if you haven't already. This is our message system to parents and on it you will find reminders and things happening in school. It is also a quick way for you to contact us if you ever have a question. Not everyone has joined but it is a very useful app for parents and school. It is only for our school and is private.

### **Attendance**

#### **First Day Calling**

In order to comply with safeguarding procedures and follow our attendance policy, we will continue to operate a 'first day call' when children are absent. If your child is absent from school we would appreciate if you could telephone and let us know before 9.30am. If your child continues to be off, please call every day or expect a call from us.

#### **Home Visits**

If any child is absent for a period of 3 days or longer, we will complete an unannounced welfare check where we conduct a home visit to check everybody is safe and well. If there is no answer, a calling card will be left asking you to contact school as soon as possible. We will still complete a home visit if you have called, in line with new expectations.

## **Attendance Penalty Notice**

The current Government guidelines now make it clear that **Headteachers are instructed that they may not grant any leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances**. As a result. Any holiday requests will be unauthorised unless exceptional circumstances can be evidenced. If a pupil has 10 unauthorised sessions (5 days) accumulated within a 10 week period a Penalty Notice may be issued. The Penalty Notice comes directly from Lincolnshire County Council and the offence is £160 per child, per parent but if paid within 21 days this will reduce to £80 per parent per child for the first offence. Everyone has been given a formal warning letter which is valid for 2 years. It is a legal requirement for us to make sure everyone receives a letter and is aware of the rules.

Please note this is for unauthorised absence. If your child is ill, please call in as usual and let us know. We understand that everyone gets ill, the above guidelines are for absences such as holidays or days off school that are not for medical reasons. If you need to get a dentist or doctors appointment for your child, please try and make these out of school time but if it can't please let us know, you may be asked for proof of appointment if these are happening regularly.

## **Late arrivals**

If children come in after registers have closed, this will go down as an unauthorised absence so please try and get here on time. 10 late marks in a 10 week period will trigger a Penalty Notice.

## **School Attendance Letters**

If your child falls below the expected level of attendance- 95% and above- then you will receive a letter about your child's attendance. If their attendance does not improve, you will be invited in for a School Attendance Panel meeting (SAP) to discuss ways in which we can improve your child's attendance.

## **Attendance Raffle**

As part of our action plan to improve school attendance, if your child has been in school every day of the week they will receive a raffle ticket to enter our termly draw. The more raffle tickets they have, the higher their chances of winning our attendance prize. We have a prize for a child in Key Stage One and a prize for a child in Key Stage Two. In the last year we have awarded 'Family Games night boxes,' Family Cinema Tickets with snacks, and Easter Activity Boxes and we hope that these have been enjoyed by the winners and their families. There are a possible 8 chances to win this term's boxes.

## **Swimming**

Children in Maple and Oak Class will have swimming lessons on Mondays starting on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025. They will go after lunch. We are asking for a contribution on £3.50 towards the cost of the bus. This can be paid on parentpay. Everyone needs a swimming hat, they won't be able to swim if they don't have one. These are new rules put in place by the swimming pool. Please make sure they have a one piece costume or trunks and a towel in a bag.

## **Uniform Shop**

We now have a little uniform shop set up in the office. We have a range of sizes, everything has been washed, there are marks on some things but there is plenty of wear left in them and some are newly new.

The money raised from selling the items will go to the Friends of Cowbit School and they will use it to help fund trips and activities for the children. Friends of Cowbit are working hard to subsidise trips so that all children can participate in all of the activities we offer. They are asking for a suggested donation of £2 an item.

If you have any uniform to donate it would be much appreciated. We are also hoping to add, coats, PE items and

Christmas jumpers (primary school sizes only) to our little shop so if you have any items you would like to donate please them along to the office. These items can also be swapped for items in the shop.

### Children's Workshops and Activities

In November, we had Online Safety Workshops delivered by Lincolnshire Police for Years 1-6. Elm Class learnt about choices, Maple Class learnt about cyberbullying and Oak Class learnt about Online Grooming.



Lincolnshire Police have also been in school running a Healthy Relationships Workshop. Elm Class have learnt about dealing with emotions. Maple have learnt about positive boundaries and Oak Class have learnt about conflict resolution.

Last week all classes had some First Aid training and they all enjoyed various activities such as putting plasters on a teddy or learning how to put someone in recovery position. The children were also the importance of knowing their address and a telephone number if they ever needed to call the emergency services.



Oak class have completed Healthy Minds course split over three afternoons. The aim of this was to teach children about how to stay healthy mentally as well as physically and use those tools in everyday situations. They explored the range of emotions we feel and the language we use to express them.

## School Trips

Oak Class visited Southwell Workhouse and Infirmary as part of their Victorian topic. They learnt what it was like to live in the workhouse, the living conditions and day to day events. They explored the privy, school house, dormitories and cellars.



Year 6 went to London last weekend, where they visited the Tower of London, The Imperial War Museum, The British Museum, The Natural History Museum, The Science Museum and the Space Centre. They did lots of walking and saw some famous landmarks and watched Wicked at the Apollo Victoria Theatre.



Maple Class had a brilliant visit to Flag Fen on Monday 9th December. They learnt all about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age, which supported their learning in History. They made clay pots in the same way a child in the Neolithic period would have done and examined artefacts to determine which period they came from. They also learnt how Bronze Age long boats are preserved and got to see some that were over 3,500 years old!



You can see all of our trips/visits news on our school website at [www.cowbit.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.cowbit.lincs.sch.uk).

## Forthcoming dates

12<sup>th</sup> December - Nativity Plays at 10am and 5pm for Reception, Year 1 and 2.

18<sup>th</sup> December- Pantomime visit & Christmas jumper day.

19<sup>th</sup> December- Carol Concert at the Church and End of Term 2

6<sup>th</sup> January- Start of Term 3

9<sup>th</sup> January - Oak class - Magistrates in the Community workshop in school

13<sup>th</sup> January - Swimming lessons start for Maple and Oak Class

28<sup>th</sup> January - Ash, Elm and Maple classes - Healthy Teeth workshop

14<sup>th</sup> February - end of term 3.

6<sup>th</sup> March - Oak Class trip - East Kirkby Aviation Museum

13<sup>th</sup> March - Elm Class trip - Sacrewell Farm

24<sup>th</sup> April - Ash Class trip - Lincolnshire Wildlife Park

1<sup>st</sup> July - Elm Class trip - Hunstanton Seaside Visit