



See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you. (Isaiah 42:9)

A MESSAGE FROM MISS LYNCH



Happy New Year and welcome back to all our children, parents, and carers! I hope you all had a good break over Christmas and enjoyed some quality family time. I realise that unfortunately some of you were unwell with Covid-19 and trust that you are now on the road to recovery.

We have some exciting things planned during our Spring Term, additional information on which can be found further on in this newsletter.

First of all, I do need to provide you with an update on Covid-19, which is sadly still with us as we make our way into 2022.

The Prime Minister was unequivocal in his briefing earlier this week - we are still in the midst of the pandemic. As such, we are continuing to be vigilant in school and have not lifted any of our precautions in and around school. Whilst we are not able to stop the virus, we are doing all we can to limit the spread within our school community. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and cooperation with the additional measures we have had in place at school since April 2020. We have been lucky thus far that the impact on our school and your children's education has been minimal, especially compared with other schools in the area. However, I am aware that the Omicron variant is highly transmissible amongst children and young people, which is why we have not lessened any procedures within school – we need to continue our vigilance to keep our children and staff as safe as possible. Despite our best efforts, however, it may be that we see a rise in cases in our school and thus we have a contingency plan in place should the need arise.

Does my child have to isolate? If any member of the household has symptoms of COVID they should book a PCR test immediately – the rest of the household (including children over 5) should use an LFT every day for 7 days prior to leaving the house and, if the test is negative, can carry on as 'normal' – this includes coming to school. If at any time the LFT is positive, they must isolate and book a PCR test immediately. Children under 5 do not have to do an LFT, but can should you wish. For more information about whether your child should isolate, see the flowchart attached to this newsletter.

Who do I inform if my child has to isolate? If your child is isolating due to COVID, please phone the school office as soon as possible and inform us of your child's end-of-isolation date. The office will then inform the class teacher. It is important that you let us know as soon as possible that your child is isolating so that there is no delay in providing home learning for your child. (Polite reminder that notification should be done via the school office and not Class Dojo/Tapestry).

Will my child be given home learning if they are isolating? Class teachers will provide home learning to children who are isolating via Class Dojo/Tapestry. We appreciate your support in facilitating your child accessing their remote learning, assuming they are well enough to complete the work. For more information about our remote learning offer please visit our website, which details this in full.

What happens if my child's teacher is isolating? We will do our best to ensure continuity of teaching for your child and will cover absences internally. Should we have insufficient cover due to a high number of staff absences, a decision will be made on whether to combine classes. **A full or partial closure of school will always be a last resort, and should this be necessary, the decision will be made with the Trust and the Local Authority, and of course parents will be informed as soon as practically possible.**

Does my child need to wear a face covering? No, children in primary school are not required to wear a face covering.

Do I need to wear a face covering when I drop-off/collect my child? It is not required for parents/carers to wear a face covering when outside, however we do ask that you socially distance from others. If you need to visit the school office, you will be required to wear a face covering.

If you have any questions, please telephone the school office.





Wisbech St Mary CE Academy Newsletter

7th January 2022

CHRISTIAN VALUE - PERSEVERANCE

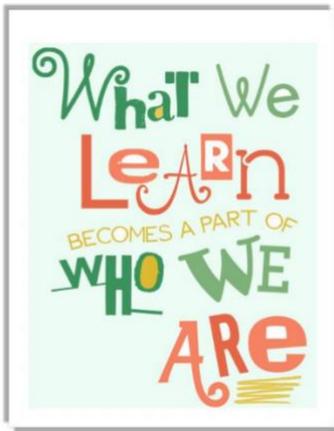
Our Christian value this term is perseverance. Perseverance build character. At its root, perseverance is recognition that life is sometimes difficult and painful, and that it is important not to give up in the face of adversity. Just as Jesus endured, we, as his followers are taught to persevere through our difficult times. This term we are going to be exploring perseverance and why it is important.

BISHOP STEVEN'S LENT CHALLENGE



Plans are in place for Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge 2022. This year's challenge will be called Brave Believers, focusing on Courageous Advocacy. There will be a programme of work, including Acts of Worship for the four weeks beginning March 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th. We are awaiting further information from the Diocese on the activities in which our children will participate and will communicate this to you all once we have it.

CLASS TOPICS



Our children are so excited about their learning this term! The topics for the first half of the Spring term are:

- Year 1** Frozen Planet
- Year 2** Australia
- Year 3** Italy
- Year 4** Mysterious Mayans
- Year 5** Great Pioneers
- Year 6** The Great Plague

Further information on these class topics can be found on our website and on Class Dojo/Tapestry.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS



Our afterschool clubs start next week! All school-run clubs are free of charge and can be booked via ParentPay (if you have any difficulty in doing this, please contact the office). After-school clubs finish at 4.15 and children should be collected from the main school entrance. May we kindly remind parents that their children must be picked up from their clubs promptly.

Monday	Forest School	Reception, Years 1 & 2
	Arts and Crafts	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday	Sports	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
Wednesday	EYFS/KS1 Film Club	Reception, Years 1 & 2
	Choir	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
Thursday	Lego	Reception, Years 1 & 2
	KS2 Film Club	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
	*Dance Club	All Year Groups
Friday	Music	Reception, Years 1 & 2
	Environment Savers	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

*Dance club is payable and should be booked directly with Mrs Georgina Barham on 07905 191030.



Changed your email or telephone number? Let us know ASAP as this is our main form of communication.

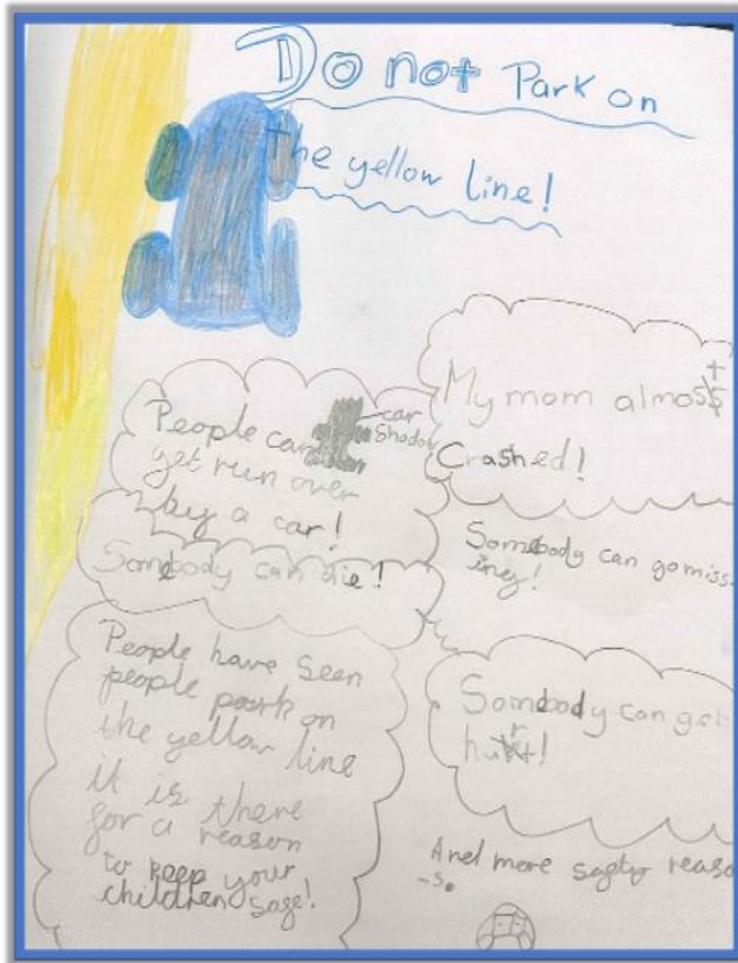


PARKING



The children have been speaking with me this week about their concerns around parking at the front of school and have asked me to mention it in the newsletter. Whilst we understand that from time to time you may be running late to school to drop-off or collect your children, we respectfully request that you do **not** park on the yellow lines outside the front of school. Not only is this illegal, it is dangerous for children trying to cross the road. We have spoken to the council and the police regarding our concerns, and they have assured us that they will be following this up and ticketing any illegally parked vehicles. As a reminder, it is unlawful to park on the yellow lines at the front of school (Churchfield Way and Church Road) during the specified times, which are clearly posted on the signs. Please help us to keep our children safe!

Emily (Y2) has created this poster to help to remind you of the *importance* of following the parking rules to keep everyone safe:



ENVIRONMENT AREA



Just before the Christmas break, our outdoor environment area was cleared and revamped and now we are very much looking forward to working with our children, the catering team and our Forest School leads to transform it into a proper working garden. Our aim is to grow our own fruit and vegetables which can then be used in the kitchen for lunches. Mmmmm, our mouths are watering already!





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FAB FOOTBALL FAN!

We were delighted to learn that just before Christmas, Ellison from Year 3 played in a football tournament with Peterborough Junior Blues at St George's Park, which is where the England football team trains. Needless to say, his family are all super proud of him as are we all at school. Well played Ellison! Here's to a super football career!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Young'uns Virtual Visit to School – Monday 10th January



The Young'uns is an English folk group who won the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards "Best Group" award in 2015 and 2016 and "Best Album" for Strangers in 2018. They specialise in singing unaccompanied and perform traditional shanties as well as contemporary songs. You may recall that the Young'uns visited our school several years ago to work with the then Year 4 (now Year 6) pupils as part of the "When Cambridgeshire Sings" project, which would then have resulted in them participating in a Cambridgeshire-wide concert. Unfortunately, Covid put a halt to this planned concert. However, we are excited that the Young'uns will be back, virtually, to work with our KS2 children and to also work with the current Year 6 children to continue where they left off and rehearse some local folk songs in preparation for a concert to take place on 27th January.

Here is a link to the then Year 4 children singing their song about local hero, Thomas Clarkson:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyZidbMmBIM>



Children's Mental Health Week – 7th – 13th February

Children's Mental Health Week will take place from 7th - 13th February 2022 and this year's theme is "Growing Together". We will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow. As part of this, we will be having a non-uniform day on **Friday 11th February** to raise money for Place 2 Be, a charity that helps to support children's mental health. Details on how to donate to this very worthy cause will be communicated at a later date.

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March

Our theme for this year's World Book Day is "The Mad Hatter's Reading Tea Party" and we would love the children to dress up in line with this theme. As part of our reading curriculum this term, all the children will be learning about Lewis Carroll's novel "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" which is about a young girl named Alice who falls through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world.



Sadly, the **Young Voices Concert**, which was due to take place on Friday 28th January has been postponed by the organisers. As soon as a new date has been confirmed, we will let you know.





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Spring Term 2022	
Monday 10 th January	Young'Uns Visit to School (virtual event)
Thursday 27 th January	When Cambridgeshire Sings concert with Young 'Uns (time tbc)
Friday 28 th January	Young Voices Concert in Birmingham - POSTPONED
Friday 11 th February	Just Beneath the Surface (creative writing session for KS2)
Friday 11 th February	Mental Health Day – “Dress to Express”
Mon 14 th – Fri 18 th Feb	Half Term break
Monday 21 st February	National Child Measurement Programme (Reception & Year 6)
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day – Madhatter’s <i>Reading</i> Tea Party
Mon 14 th – Fri 18 th Mar	British Science Week
Monday 14 th March	Year 6 Careers Convention (TBC)
Tuesday 29 th March	End of Term Celebration Assembly
Thursday 31 st March	Years 3, 4 & 5 Easter production
Friday 1 st April	Last day of Spring Term – no joke!
Mon 4 th – Fri 15 th April	Easter Holiday
Monday 18 th April	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 19 th April	Summer Term Starts



Thank you for your continued support!

Miss Jaynie Lynch
Headteacher



Wisbech St. Mary Church of England Academy

Church Road, Wisbech St Mary
Cambridgeshire, PE13 4RJ

Headteacher: Miss Jaynie Lynch

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Vicki Bradshaw

01945 410 312

office@wsmacademy.cambs.sch.uk

www.wsmacademy.co.uk

www.twitter.com/AcademyWsm

www.instagram.com/wsm_academy

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We are here to support you. Contact us if you are in need.