



Wareside C of E School Newsletter

WOW! What's on, Wareside?

18th December 2020

CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST UPON US

The four-week lead up to Christmas always begins with Advent, which this year fell on Sunday 29th November. It is a time when we reflect on the meaning of Christmas. Our Advent candles are being lit each week – the first represents Hope, the second Peace, the third Love and the fourth is for Joy. These sentiments all seem very relevant this year. It is a busy time of year as each family prepares for their own celebrations and although it is a little different with the restrictions in place, it may just mean everyone being a little more inventive – perhaps a Zoom quiz or Zoom charades!

At school we officially entered into the Christmas spirit with the installation of the fabulous Christmas tree. After a couple of days shaking itself into shape, it now stands proud in the hall, fully laden with festive tree hangings, including those made by your children during our very jolly Christmas craft afternoon. A BIG THANK YOU to all our talented Teaching Assistants, who not only supervised but also thought of the ideas and organised the whole event. As you can see from the photographs, it was a cracking success!

Christmas would not be the same without Christmas jumpers and the children enjoyed coming to school for the extra days this year.

To keep up the traditions, we have watched an online Christmas Pantomime called 'National Elf Service' and an online magician – classrooms have been filled with laughter.

Our whole-school Nativity takes place on the last morning of the term. We are hoping to add a recording onto the website for parents and carers to enjoy.

Although the mornings can be dark and a little chilly, they can also be beautiful. So finally I leave you with an 'awe and wonder' photograph of sunrise in Wareside, courtesy of Mrs Elliman – taken on her way to school recently.



I would also like to thank you all for your support since September which has enabled us to deliver the education that your children deserve. The staff have worked wonders to ensure that school life has been as normal as possible.

Finally, all our families are wished a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Gaze

**IF YOU
"LIKE"
WARESIDE PRIMARY
PLEASE RECOMMEND OUR LOVELY
SCHOOL
TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND
ACQUAINTANCES**

NOW IS THE TIME FOR: -

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

The application process for places at primary school for September 2021 opened on Monday 2nd November 2020. This process is for children currently in nursery. Please apply on line at

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

On-line applications close on 15th January 2021.



Faith, Love, Courage, Patience

Wareside C of E School Newsletter

WOW! What's on, Wareside?

18th December 2020

THANK YOU TO MR & MRS BENSON!



Thank you so much to Rhys's parents for our beautiful Christmas tree. All the children and staff helped to decorate it by each placing a bauble on their chosen branch.



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

The children enjoyed a lovely afternoon making Christmas crafts which was organised by our wonderful Teaching Assistants. Look out for some lovely cards coming your way. The children also made decorations, A Father Christmas paper plate and a holly wreath, which can be seen in the car park hanging on the library fence. The adults and children got very creative and lots of fun was had! It really got everyone in the Christmas spirit!





Faith, Love, Courage, Patience

Wareside C of E School Newsletter

WOW! What's on, Wareside?

18th December 2020

OUR NATIVITY PLAY

On Friday, 18th December, Year 6 led our Nativity service. The children performed it in a tableau style, which was beautiful. We are hoping to upload the performance to our website so please have a look when you get chance.



The children have been enjoying our Kings & Queens topic. Last week we were learning about Richard III. We discussed how we can find out about historical events and how we can separate facts from fiction. Here are some of the facts we learnt in class: Richard III was only the king for two years. He died during the War of the Roses. His body was not discovered until 2012 when it was found underneath a car park. His skeleton had no feet and had a curved spine (it was reported that he had a 'hunchback'). He was believed to be a cruel king. People also believed that he had his nephews killed so that he could become king!

We looked at the facts and the beliefs and had a vote. Our verdict...guilty!

SPORTING EVENTS

Friday was Santa Dash day, Christmas jumpers and hats were at the ready!

SWALLOWS

Swallows Class is looking very festive. We have our Christmas tree up and our Advent Calendar. The elf is also back! He has been up to his usual cheeky antics as well as joining in with classroom routines, prayers and helping children with their learning, don't worry he has been wearing his mask to respect social distancing rules.



Our children were great sports they all ran around the playground for the county wide 'Santa Dash'. Everyone looked fabulous wearing their Christmas accessories and they all did a super job.





Wareside C of E School Newsletter

WOW! What's on, Wareside?

18th December 2020

Amazons have been busy competing in some virtual competitions. We have sent entries for Boccia, Football and Archery. These results are sent to our School Games Organiser who will then compare them to other schools to decide who goes into the finals...wish us luck!

Mrs Simmons

P.E. Subject Co-ordinator

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Pupils will not have to sit the same tests they would sit in a normal year. The key stage 1 tests in English reading and maths and the English grammar, punctuation and spelling test at key stage 1 and 2 will be removed for one year. We are keeping some assessments though, because it is important for us to be able to understand the progress pupils are making. Primary assessments in summer 2021 will be focused on the phonics screening check, teacher assessment in English reading, writing and mathematics at key stage 1, tests in English reading and mathematics and teacher assessment in English writing at key stage 2.

FRIENDS OF WARESIDE SCHOOL

Kelly Evans, Jake's mum, has setup Amazon Smile to help raise funds for our school. Thank you Kelly!

Please follow instructions below to support Friends of Wareside School on Amazon Smile.

- From the app on your phone choose **see all programmes**
- Then scroll down till you see amazon smile
- It will ask you to search for a charity which is **Friends of Wareside School**

- After that you have to turn on notifications and that should mean that every time you shop through the app eligible items will help us raise extra funds that will be paid directly into the Friends bank account.

WINTER MINI READING CHALLENGE

Following on from the Summer Reading Challenge organised by Hertfordshire Libraries. The Reading Agency's winter mini reading challenge is here to help keep children reading over the winter holidays. The Reading Agency have teamed up with award-winning inclusive publisher **Knights Of** to run an *Everyone Is A Hero* themed Mini Challenge to celebrate heroes in all their forms and keep children reading this winter. It features characters from Knights and Bikes, High Rise Mystery and the Run series. There is a free-to-access website featuring rewards and incentives for reading and reviewing books. It will all be run online. There is a downloadable certificate at the end.

How can children take part in the Winter Mini Challenge?

The Winter Mini Challenge is run through The Reading Agency's year-round children's website.

To take part, children simply read three or more books - these can be any books of their choice. Every time they finish a book, they add it to their Challenge website profile and leave a short book review.

Reaching their online reading goal will unlock a virtual badge and a special Everyone Is a Hero certificate to print off and keep!

Please access this link to view the suggested reading list:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/children/news/winter-mini-challenge-2020-official-booklist.html>

This list is full of heroes that inspire, challenge



Wareside C of E School Newsletter

WOW! What's on, Wareside?

18th December 2020

and push the definition of what it means to be a hero. These and many more heroic titles can be reserved and collected from Hertfordshire Libraries even whilst libraries are not open for browsing. Children can access the challenge from Tuesday 1st December at:

<http://www.wintermini.org.uk>

HEALTHY START PROMOTION FOR SCHOOLS – HERTS COUNTY COUNCIL

The Money Advice Unit is embarking on an exciting new project, funded by DEFRA, to combat food poverty in Hertfordshire and help those affected by the economic effects of coronavirus to get help and advice so that they are better able to cope financially. We are starting with a healthy start food and vitamins promotion because, according to the latest NHS figures, there are over 8,000 Hertfordshire families who should be getting Healthy Start Vouchers and only about 3,500 are. To support this, we have commissioned an easy to use benefit and budgeting calculator, available to members of the public on the Money Advice Unit website.

Are you pregnant or have a child under four? Did you know you could be missing out on free fruit and vegetables or milk worth at least £200 a year?

If you are at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under four years old, and in receipt of certain benefits, you could be entitled to Healthy Start Vouchers worth £3.10 per child per week (£4.25 per week from April 2021), to spend on milk, plain fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables, and instant formula milk. You can also use them to buy certain pulses and canned fruit and vegetables.

If you are entitled to Healthy Start Vouchers you will also get free vitamins designed to help pregnant and breastfeeding women and growing children.

Pregnant women and every child over one and under four years old can get one voucher every

week. Children under one year old can get £6.20 per week.

Some supermarkets are also reducing the cost of shopping by an extra £1 to those redeeming the Healthy Start Vouchers.

Check your eligibility on:

www.gov.uk/healthy-start

You can also use the benefit-checker on the County Council's website, and access free information about benefits that you might be missing-out on: –

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/benefits

UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Reminder – Children in years Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for Universal Free School Meals. Please contact the School Office if you would like to change your child's lunch choice.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your circumstances have changed due to COVID or for any other reason your child/ren may be entitled to Free School Meals. To find out if you are eligible please go to:-

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

and for information please go to:-

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



Wareside C of E School Newsletter

WOW! What's on, Wareside?

18th December 2020

THE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

The Family Support service is here to support with a variety of situations, offering non-judgemental support that works for you and your family.

All families in East Herts District can register with the service at:

https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ufs/CHSERV_FCREG.eb?ebd=0&ebz=1_1602242671484

Kirsty Stuart

District Manager

E Kirsty.stuart@oneymca.org

A Beane Valley Children's Centre, Clappers Lane, Watton at Stone SG14 3QA

LIVING STREETS

Living Streets, the charity for everyday walking, have produced some resources to encourage primary aged children to walk more.

By encouraging families to walk, scoot or cycle to school you can help reduce congestion and parking issues outside school. Walking is also important for health and wellbeing.

You may wish to promote Living Streets' on-line resources to your pupils/parents/carers to encourage them to walk to school in September.

Resources can be found here... <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools>

Sarah Elliott

Road Safety Officer

Active and Safer Travel | Highways | Environment and Infrastructure

Hertfordshire County Council

THE DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS

Charity GroceryAid has launched a School Essentials Grant scheme to help reduce the financial impact on parents. Parents can apply for a grant of £150 per school-aged child (up to a maximum of three children per family) to go

towards school essentials, subject to meeting the GroceryAid eligibility criteria. Many low-income families are forced to cut back on food and other essential items when buying new uniform for children, so the hope is that this will help them in what is an even more pressured time than normal. Find out more about GroceryAid and the grants by copying and pasting this link.

https://www.groceryaid.org.uk/get-help/school-essentials-grant/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email-organic&utm_campaign=school-essentials&utm_content=GA-hyperlink

**Children return to school on
Tuesday 5th January at 8.50am**

**Please can we remind all parents and carers
that children should be at school**

by 8.50am

for registration and school meal choices.

**When children arrive late at school,
recording procedures and cleaning routines
are duplicated taking staff away from their
classroom or office duties. We are also
trying to limit the number of people coming
to the school reception door.**

**Thank you for your consideration and
support.**



Faith, Love, Courage, Patience

Wareside C of E School Newsletter

WOW! What's on, Wareside?

18th December 2020