



Newsletter

Tuesday 19th December 2017

I say it every year around about this time, Christmas is suddenly here and I can't believe how quickly this term has gone! First and foremost, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and new year and thank you for continuing to support the school in everything that we do. Hopefully you got one of my Christmas chocolates on the gate this morning but don't worry, we are still a healthy school and we still promote a balanced diet!

As you can see from the newsletter it has been a pretty busy time in school and there is plenty to celebrate. What's great to see is the diversity of achievements we have in school and how much the children are prepared to try something new; whether it be table tennis, building tetrahedrons or singing carols in front of a packed playground. Together with Forest Schools, which has got off to a great start, the opportunities the children have in school really help them to grow in confidence and enjoy their learning. Not forgetting the brilliant Drama assembly last week in the hall...



In other news, I would like to say a huge thank you to the PTFA for organising such a fantastic Christmas Fair! It really was a great event and the children absolutely loved seeing Father Christmas in his grotto and having their photos taken with the reindeer. The community spirit at Markeaton never ceases to amaze me and I feel very lucky to be a part of it all. You really turned up in your numbers and made the whole occasion very festive, so thank you!

Following on from last week's weekly word, the winner has been announced for our PMX App competition. In order to enter you had to have downloaded the PMX App (something we will be encouraging more and more over the next few months) and started using it. Congratulations to Tess Brooks who won a £40 voucher for the Red Cow in Allestree! What you will notice in the new year is that we will be sending fewer text messages and more email reminders. This is because it is really expensive to send text messages (£15 each time) and we want more families to download the app so that it is free for us to contact you – plus most people check their phones rather than their emails. Please help us to reach our goal by downloading the app as soon as possible.

Please also support our 'Cheer For Good' bid at Starbucks (see the school Twitter page for details). If we finish in the top 30 charities then we receive £2k! The vote closes in two days so please help us reach our goal!

And finally, within the last hour, I have been informed that there is a strong possibility the Schools Library Service, operating out of Kedleston Road Training Centre, may well be closed in the not too distant future. This service provides us with books, artefacts and other dynamic resources for our topics and losing it would be a huge blow to the curriculum and what we do at Markeaton. We have already contacted some people we know in order to help save the service but if you have any ideas which will support our cause then please get in touch.

Once again, have a lovely Christmas and New Year and see you at the front gate on January 4th.

Mr I. Johnson

A great effort from **Markeaton Table Tennis Team** this half term at Derby Moor Community Sports College.



Congratulations to the **CycloCross Team** who won the first event of the season at Markeaton Park - AMAZING!!! Another tournament is scheduled for March 2018.



Well done to **Markeaton Gymnastics Team** who participated at Mickleover Gymnastics Club this half term and came 5th overall.



Highlights from this Half Term

To say this half-term has been a busy one is an understatement! We've had a visit from the Mayor of Derby, Anti-Bullying Week, visits from a STEM ambassador, Christmas productions, parties and Christmas Jumper Day, plus our Outdoor Learning environment is being put to full use, whatever the weather!

FS2 have enjoyed delving into the Arts at Kedleston Road Training Centre this half term. And, to bring the 2017 school year to a close, they are visiting the National Forest Adventure Farm today for a truly winter wonderland experience. I'm sure there will be lots of excited children as they return to school.

Y1 focussed on 'Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot' this half term; explored the works of Picasso and attempted their own masterpieces and also, along with Y2, wowed the audience with their Christmas play 'Christmas With The Aliens'.

Y2 kicked off this half term with a trip to Eureka in Yorkshire. Whilst there, they were able to utilise all the amazing equipment that Eureka offers, helping the children understand their bodies and how they work. They have ended the year making their own 2018 calendars - we hope you like them?

Y3 introduced some Rock and Roll into their PE lessons this half term and had a lot of fun acting out their own version of 'A Midsummers Night's Dream'.

The Tudor theme continued this half term for **Y4** who, along with Y3, made their own pottage and marzipan fruit for the Tudor Feast. They have also been busy developing life skills by utilising our new Outdoor Classroom area, putting up shelters and learning to 'walk the rope'!

Y5 have been busy practising Mindfulness Meditation as part of their RE topic 'The Path to Enlightenment'. They helped spread smiles by producing their own 'Random Acts of Kindness' challenge during Anti-Bullying Week and, together with Y6, built the biggest tetrahedron, with the help of our STEM ambassador from Rolls Royce.

Y6's half term has been equally as busy, coding their own Space Invaders game, sculpting alien life form and designing and building their own 'perfect parachute' using various materials.

Thank you to all the parents/carers who made their voluntary contributions for these trips and activities. Also, a very big thank you to Markeaton PTFA who subsidise these trips by £10 per child per year. Without your support, we would not be able to offer such a diverse and stimulating curriculum.





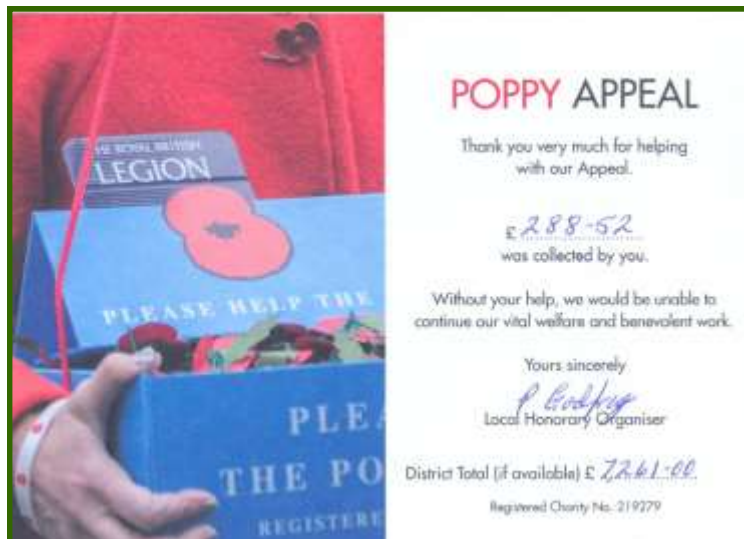
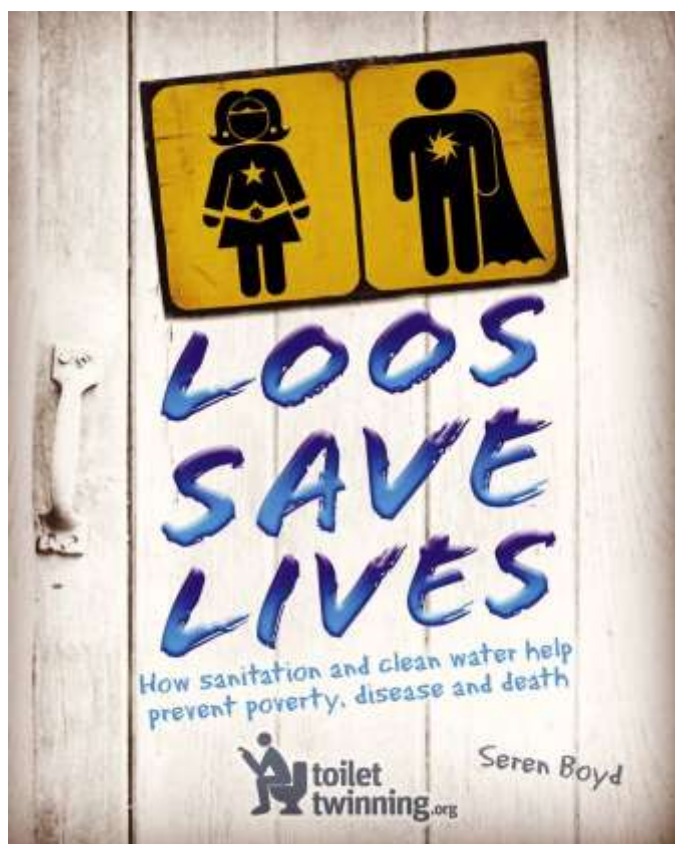
Thanks to the generosity, hard work and support of the children, parents, carers and staff of Markeaton Primary School plus some amazing friends and neighbours, the cake sale, held at school in November, helped to raise enough funds to pay for two school toilet blocks in Africa through the wonderful charity, Toilet Twinning.

As a result, we are twinning the Infants' toilets at Markeaton with toilets at a school in Chatumbwa Village, Rumphi District, Malawi (the 6th poorest country in the world) and the Juniors' toilets with a school toilet block in Mugubudu, Mumbwa, Zambia (48th poorest country).

Your kindness will help more children to attend school in Malawi and Zambia more regularly (girls in particular), have better job prospects and enjoy improved health.

Thank you very much.

Cathy Travis and Rafa Travis (Y6)



Parentmail App

As previously communicated, the text message service used to send reminders for trips, activities and events is quite a costly service for our school and we feel the funds could be better used elsewhere for your child's education.

To continue to keep you informed, we believe a more cost effective solution would be for parents to download the free Parentmail app. We could then turn our SMS messages into emails. The app would negate you having to look through a messy email inbox and all notifications would appear instantly and in one place. With the app, you can also send the School Office a message to report your child's absence.

www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/parentmail-app/benefits-of-the-app/

To download the free Parentmail app, all you have to do is visit your app store.

The winner of our Parentmail app competition is Ms. Brooks - well done! A £40 meal voucher for the Red Cow, Allestree, is ready for you to collect from the School Office!

Thank you for your support.

The School Office Team



Attention all parents!

Download the ParentMail App

for the best way to pick up school messages

FREE DOWNLOAD

"Nice simple little App but such a great, effective way of accessing important school information"
★★★★★

"Great communications tool - makes life a bit more organised"
★★★★★

"Brilliant! I don't have to go back to all my emails to check up what's going on at my children's school, 10 out of 10"
★★★★★

Search "ParentMail" in your App store...

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

ParentMail BEST

Please note: If you are not already registered, you will need to register online on the ParentMail website before trying to access the App. Please ask the school office to send you a registration message

School Dinners

The cost of school dinners for half term Tuesday 9th January to Friday 16th February is **£70.40**. Payment can be made half-termly or weekly and is due in advance. Please refer to our School Dinners—Payment and Arrears Policy on our website for more information.

Thank you



Website/Twitter

Have you visited our website yet?



In addition to our Parentmail PMX system you will also find a host of information on our website: term dates, upcoming PTFA events, downloadable trip letters and application forms for extra-curricular activities and clubs. There is also a page advertising what is going on in your local area and even a quick and easy link to inform us of your child's absence.

Parents told us that they would like more visibility of what their children were learning about in school. In addition to Parents Evenings, Come To Lunch Dates and Class Assemblies, every Year Group now have their own Twitter feed. You do not need to subscribe to Twitter to view it, simply go to 'Our Learning' on our website www.markeaton.derby.sch.uk to find out more.

Happy Christmas from Markeaton PTFA

We would like to thank you all for your ongoing support in our first term on the committee. The PTFA calendar wouldn't be possible without parents, carers, grandparents and the local community volunteering their time, giving donations, baking cakes and coming to the events, so thank you. It's been a busy first term for us all but we've enjoyed it! Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and see you in 2018!

Helen (PTFA Chair)



YMCA Wrap-Around-Care

Based at Markeaton Primary School



In partnership with Markeaton Primary School we provide a safe and friendly environment for your child that provides lots of exciting activities before and after school, including: problem solving, arts and crafts, a range of sports, help with homework and much more. Our wide range of activities will support children's natural stages of development and interests alongside ensuring healthy and nutritious food is provided.

We support daily routines to enable children to become alert and ready for the school day and then offer time for homework and fun and games after the school day so children go home relaxed.

The Breakfast Club includes a nutritious breakfast and the After School Club includes a nutritious tea.

To book your place, please visit:

<http://ymcaderbyshire.org.uk/about/what-we-do/family-work/markeaton-primary-school/>



For details of external events and activities in your local area please visit our website:

www.markeaton.derby.sch.uk/In-Your-Local-Area



Dates For Your Diary 2017 - 2018

Further dates will be added throughout the school year

20th December - 2nd January	Christmas Holidays - school closed
	2018
Wed 3rd January	INSET Day - school closed to pupils
Tues 9th January	Individual Photographs
Wed 10th January	Family Photographs
Thurs 11th January	Any Missed + Staff Vista Photographs
Mon 5th February	Y5/6 Sophie Snell Storyteller workshops
19th - 25th February	Half Term - school closed
Tues 27th February	Y5/6 trip to Kedleston Hall (TBC)
Fri 2nd March	PTFA Quiz Night
5th - 8th March	School Book Fair
Thurs 8th March	Y3 Come To Lunch
8th - 9th March	Y4 Condoover Hall residential trip
Wed 14th March	Y2 trip to Holdenby House
Thurs 15th March	Y2 V-Day Street Party 2.30pm (parents/carers welcome)
Fri 16th March	PTFA Easter Egg Hunt <i>(date revised from original published)</i>
19th & 20th March	Y5 Level 1 Bikeability (limited places)
Wed 21st March	Class Photographs
Thurs 22nd March	FS2 Balanceability (limited places)
Fri 23rd March	INSET Day - school closed to pupils
26th March - 8th April	Easter Holidays - school closed
Mon 7th May	Bank Holiday - school closed