

# Newsletter

Dearest Parents,

Thank you to everyone who came in to see the teachers this week during our parent's evenings. It is always great to be able to share what your children are doing well and work with you to support them making the most progress possible. When the balance of home and school is maximised - our children really flourish.

Today is one of those special days that make Finham Primary School 'Unique and Awesome.' Today is our Finham Firework Night. What makes this special is that it is organised by our Year 6 children. They applied to take on the role and have worked together to organise the whole event. They booked the Potato Van, they went to Bookers Cash and Carry and bought and planned the sweet shop, they designed the posters and tickets, they planned and organised the Firework Display and they have given up their lunchtimes and will stay behind after school this evening to set the event up. Then they will welcome you, collect your tickets or sell them to you at the gate, run the sweet shop and be there to ensure you have a fabulous evening and after you have all gone, stay behind to tidy away. The only thing they will not do is light the fireworks...there are strict rules about that :-)

There can't be many Year 6 children in the country that are given the opportunity to organise and run major community events and the skills that this will give them go far beyond any results they may or may not get. We want our children to be active and successful members in their community, that take ownership and responsibility way beyond what is in it just for them. This is why we do not have a PTA at Finham, we have a CTA...a Children and Teachers Association...it is their school and it is their future and we do not want them to be a passive part of it. I am so proud of them right now and know that they could not have done anymore to try and make tonight a success for you all, even down to booking the weather. Thank you to everyone who is coming tonight to support their work and please, if you can spare 30 seconds during your evening, take time to thank them and show your appreciation...they will be the ones wearing High Viz Jackets and bowling you over with their enthusiasm!

Whatever you are doing this weekend, stay safe!

Kindest Regards

Richard Machin

Headteacher

## **FIR CONES**

Mrs Bracken is needing some fir cones, if anybody has any please could they be brought into the school office. Many thanks

## **CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY AND CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Advance notice, we are having Christmas dinner on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December and you will be able to wear a Christmas jumper. We will be looking for a donation but we will send out information nearer the time.

## **PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH TEAM**

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November from 9.30am - 11.00am we are having a coffee morning with the Primary Mental Health Team who are coming into school to deliver an introduction to mental health in schools. This is an extremely informative session, and is open to parents of all children throughout the school, and we would be delighted if you would join us for a coffee. The following week, the 27<sup>th</sup> November will be a follow up consultation session for any specific issues or questions raised.

If you have any questions concerning this, please call school and speak with Kath Duffy.

## **BRITISH LEGION POPPY MERCHANDISE**

We have several items of merchandise on sale at the school office, ranging from 50p to £1. Unfortunately, **we have sold out of the slap bands.**

## **MESSAGE FROM MRS MACHIN**

It was lovely to speak to so many parents at Parents Evening this week about the importance of reading at home and to share some top tips and ideas for reading. It is so important to have this special time at home every day where we read and share books with our children. This is especially true in this busy world we live in. But why is it so important for us to keep reading with our children for as long as possible?

Research has typically found that shared reading experiences are highly beneficial for young people. Benefits of shared reading include fostering the development of listening skills, spelling, reading comprehension, building vocabulary and establishing literacy skills. Also, it has been proven that children who read are happier. These benefits do not somehow disappear as children age. So it is vital that we continue to share books even in Year 6. Please help us to foster a love of reading in your child/ren and support them to develop a daily reading habit.

**1. Choose a quiet time** - Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough. Older children should be reading for at least twenty to thirty minutes. Remember you are never too old for a bedtime story!

**2. Make reading enjoyable** - Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Make it funny by 'doing the voices'.

**3. Maintain the flow** -If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. Repeat reading of a book is also a great way to build fluency. Take it in turns to read different parts too.

**4. Be positive** - If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say 'No. That's wrong,' but 'Let's read it together' and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

**5. Success is the key** - Parents anxious for a child to progress can mistakenly give a child a book that is too difficult. This can have the opposite effect to the one they are wanting. Remember 'Nothing succeeds like success'. Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a book with many unknown words is pointless. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers.

**6. Visit the Library** -Encourage your child to use the public library regularly. There are also lots of websites that can help with ideas for books such as: [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk) [www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com) or [www.booksfortopics.com](http://www.booksfortopics.com)

**7. Regular practice** -Try to read with your child every day. 'Little and often' is best.

**8. Communicate** -Please write in your child/ren's reading diary. Try to communicate regularly with positive comments and any concerns. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

**9. Talk about the books** -There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills. I have included a bookmark with questions on to get you started!

**10. Variety is important** - Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials eg. picture books, stories, comics, magazines and newspapers, poems, and information books.

It is important to bear in mind that 'There is no such thing as a child who hates reading; only a child who hasn't found the right book.' Look out for our Christmas reading newsletter that will be out before the end of term! If you're stuck for ideas or just not sure, please come in and speak to me. I'm always more than happy to help.

I have attached some KS1 & KS2 reading questions you can ask your child/ren.

Mrs Machin

## **DIARY DATES**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November – Year 5 Inspire Workshop, 9:00am**