

## Key Dates

### Half Term - 22<sup>nd</sup> October – 26<sup>th</sup> October

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1 November</b>	Year 7 Parents' Evening (Tutor only)
<b>Friday</b>	<b>2 November</b>	Y1 Family Assembly

### Great Engineer's School Challenge

Some children from Y6 visited Shildon Railway museum on Wednesday to take their Meccano creations to the Engineer's Final. The 24 children had been building different models, including cranes, planes, and windmills, at the lunch time club. They had a wonderful day taking part in STEM activities and built motorized cars, coded robots and explored the trains. They did not win a placing but did very well considering it was their first time building with proper Meccano.



### Live Theatre

The children in Year 5 had an inspiring day when they visited the Live Theatre Workshop at the newly refurbished Fire Station. Imagination and creativity was the order of the day and the pupils had a wonderful time writing and performing their stories.



### Y5 Family Assembly

A special thank you to everyone who came to the children's performance. The pupils delivered songs and stories inspired by their Firedamp and Davey Lamp topic. Who can really imagine how hard life was like working down a mine – especially if you are only five years old!? Several parents asked about our closing song, it is called Working Man (The Miners' Song) by David Alexander.



### Batteries

Stopped clocks, old TV remotes, toy cars and under the settee! Yes, they're everywhere – old, unwanted batteries. Please remember to have a good look around the house over half term for any batteries that are no longer in use and bring them into school, we could win the £500 prize.



The collection box is outside the Sports Hall door (primary entrance).

### **Future Tennis Superstar**

A huge well done to Elisha in Year 4, who competed in her first big tennis tournament in Edinburgh recently. She came out on top in her category and we are really proud of her! Massive congratulations and we look forward to hearing more about her progress in the future.

### **Harvest tins**

A huge thank you to all for your contributions of tinned items of food for the Harvest appeal for the Salvation Army. This will be a great support for people around the city of Sunderland.

### **Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal**

We are continuing to supporting the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal where pupils can fill a shoe box with new toys, stationery and hygiene items. Pupils will come home with a leaflet giving further details about appropriate items to include. The charity will then distribute the boxes to children around the world who may not otherwise receive Christmas presents this year. They can bring completed boxes to school after half term where they will be collected by the charity. If you would rather donate 'top up' items which are individual items, they would also be gratefully received as they are used to 'top up' smaller boxes. Please bring boxes in by Friday 9th November.

### **Cashless catering and ParentPay**

We had a successful registration day for the new biometric catering system this week, ready for the live launch day on Monday 29 October. The dining room will be fully cashless including morning break for seniors. Parents are encouraged to sign up to ParentPay as soon as possible ahead of the launch day, ensuring that students have sufficient funds to cover their meals and other requirements. Free school meal credits will be applied daily for those who qualify but this will only cover lunches - morning break

snacks and other purchases need to be paid for online. We will be adding trips to parent pay after half term so that parents can pay for events such as Derwent Hill and the Paris trip online, this will help you view your own balances.

If you have not yet returned a consent form for biometric registration, please still do so. The thumb scanner is fast and efficient and students not registered this way are going to have to remember a PIN.

### **100 Club**

**DOUBLE 100 CLUB!!  
100 Praise Points 100% Attendance**

Senior School saw the launch out of our new rewards program featuring the 100 Club. We are so proud that so many students managed to enter the double 100 club, with 100% attendance and over 100 Praise Points. Pupils with over 100 Praise points were invited by Pastoral Leaders for hot chocolate and cookies at break to celebrate.

### **Christmas Cards**

We have partnered with a printing company to give pupils the opportunity to produce and purchase their own Christmas cards, gift labels, mugs and calendars. Pupils should complete their artwork on the reverse of the order form provided, for guidelines on artwork please see below.

All artwork, order forms and payment need to be returned to school on or before **Friday November 9<sup>th</sup>**. We then send one whole school order. One pound from each order will be donated to school funds and Charlie Bear for Cancer Care charity.

Orders received after that date will not be able to be processed.

# Xmas4schools™

## ARTWORK INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEACHERS/ORGANISERS

Please read these instructions carefully to ensure you get the best results:

### DO ✓

• Bright, colourful Christmas designs that fill the A4 paper produce the best results.

• Use paint, felt tip, crayon, inks and coloured pencils.

• Use collage.

(Make sure all pieces are securely stuck on!)

• Use glitter glue.

• Make sure any text is bold, legible and kept within 2cm of the edges of the A4 paper.

• Make sure any border design is nice and large as we trim about 3mm off the cards to give a professional finish.

### DON'T ✗

• Please DO NOT use sprinkle glitter (glitter glue is fine) - it has a tendency to fall off and end up on other children's artwork and our scanners!

• If you are doing collage, please DO NOT MAKE THE SHEET THICKER THAN 2 PIECES OF PAPER.

• Please don't fold the artwork, or use staples or sellotape.

• Avoid metallic finishes over large areas.

• Pale coloured pencils on a white background do not reproduce well.



To view a full range of products please visit:

<https://xmas4schools.co.uk/christmas-cards-for-schools-products>

## Crossing Patrol Update

Many parents have expressed their concerns at the lack of a school crossing patrol in front of the school. We have now been informed, that after a very slow response to advertising across Sunderland, the City Council are now firmly in the midst of the recruiting process. Shortlisting has already occurred and interviews are to be held over the next two weeks; hopefully one will be quickly identified for Grindon. The successful candidates will receive training and should all take up their posts across Sunderland shortly thereafter. We will announce the name of the successful candidate as soon as we are informed.

## Fencing

Due to the strong winds of the recent storm our neighbours at the care home lost part of their fencing. They are due to have this replaced in time for our return after half-term. It does not affect our safety as all our playground areas are behind our own black metal fencing. Extra safety precautions are taken when using the front of the school site.

## Lockdown

Many thanks to our children and staff who carried out a very successful lockdown drill earlier in the week.

## And finally....

If you would like to send a little message to say 'thank you' to a teacher who you think has gone the 'extra mile', you can really make their day by visiting:

<https://www.teachingawards.com/thank-a-teacher/>

Wishing each and every member of our school community every blessing during the October Half Term. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October.