

Fordham All Saints (VC) Primary School

Mill Road, Fordham, Colchester, Essex CO6 3NN

admin@allsaints-fordham.essex.sch.uk T: 01206 240251

Good afternoon everyone,

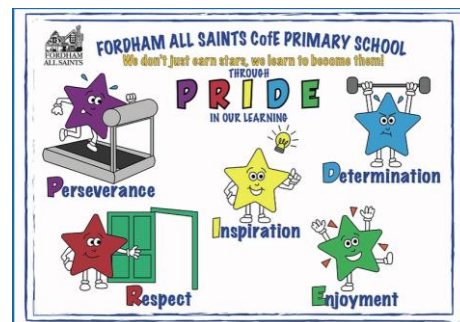
I hope you are all well and staying safe. As I write this newsletter the sun has just come out; things always look a little easier when the sun is shining. We also have the added excitement of some snow forecast for the weekend.

It has been a good week in school; the Zoom Assemblies are well attended and I really enjoy seeing everyone on a Monday morning to start the week with so many smiley faces. Mrs McMillan enjoys the buzz of the Golden assemblies on Thursdays. This week's Theme Thursday had people wearing yellow or making hats and the pictures I saw certainly made me smile, I thought Mrs McMillan's sombrero and sunglasses cheered up the day.

Next week the Theme Thursday is going to have a relaxed theme with everyone comfy and cosy. Children can wear their onesies or comfortable clothes, but no pyjamas please. The children coming into school will have a non-uniform day too so we can all enjoy the relaxing atmosphere.

Each class has had a Zoom meeting with a variety of activities going on from Bingo to scavenger hunts. I know the children really enjoy being able to see their friends and have contact with their teachers. It is a great way to bring a little social interaction into our lives.

You may have seen circulating over social media or in the local news the story of Lily McKelvey, she has been diagnosed with a brain tumour (DIPG) Lily lives in Marks Tey and goes to St Andrews Primary School. She is the daughter of a family friend of Chappel and amidst all our worries I thought we should take a minute to hold the family in our thoughts. This week Lily will undergo a full week of radiotherapy and Lily along with her family need all the help and support they can get. The prayer in this week's newsletter is dedicated to Lily and her family.



Upcoming Events

30th & 31st January

The Big Garden Bird watch

22nd February review of National Lockdown in England



More Important News

I heard about The Great Big Art Exhibition on the radio this week. It sounds like a lovely way to brighten up our communities. The idea is that people create a piece of artwork at home and display it in their window or garden. The project has been launched by Sir Anthony Gormley who said the ambition was to create a country-wide show of imagination and optimism, inspired by the rainbow images people made to celebrate the NHS and keyworkers during the first lockdown.

Details of how to take part, [including a free activity pack](#), are available from arts organisation FirstSite.

Another activity to take part in this weekend is the RSPB's Garden Birdwatch survey. It is very simple to take part, you just choose an hour on either Saturday 30th or Sunday 31st January and then spend the time looking out of your window and counting the different types of birds you see. I am planning to do this tomorrow, I am going to fill some bird feeders and then sit back with a cup of tea and see what happens. If you would like to find out more just go to the RSPB website <https://www.rspb.org.uk/> where you can register to take part and log your results.

It has been a sobering week this week as the news reported the number of people who have died from Covid passed the 100,000 mark. Each one of these people had family and friends and the impact on them is huge. The news that a third vaccine is being put forward for approval is a small light at the end of what can seem a very long tunnel. We also found out the Government are not planning to open schools before the 8th March. This adds to the worries of parents and families. There has been advice on how we can protect our mental health and well-being at this time and it focusses on simple actions which we can all achieve. The first one is to make sure you look after yourself, you can only effectively care for others if you are well yourself. This may seem like an impossible task, or just one more thing to add to the "to do" list. However, things like making sure you eat regularly and healthily, get enough sleep and move around will all help with our own well-being. Remember there is always someone on the end of the phone if you need to talk about anything. You are doing a fantastic job juggling the demands of work, family and home learning make sure you give yourselves credit for all you are achieving.

Have a lovely weekend,

Julie Ingram

In the Community

School website

I will be adding information and updating the website over the next few weeks. Please do visit the site to keep up to date with all that is going on in school.

www.allsaints-fordham.essex.sch.uk



Lord Jesus Christ,

Good Shepherd of the sheep,

You gather the lambs in your arms
and carry them in your bosom:

We commend to your loving care this
child Lily.

Relieve her pain, guard her from all
danger,

Restore to her your gifts of gladness
and strength,

And raise her up to a life of service to
you.

Hear us, we pray, for your dear
Name's sake.

Amen.