



Dear Parents,

Newsletter 6th October 2023

Autumn seems to have swept in at a rush, the mornings and evenings are getting darker and there is a definite bite in the air. However, summer is promising to make a brief re-appearance this weekend and I hope you've got something lovely planned.

Our younger children are busy collecting acorns and conkers and the children in forest school have been enjoying the delights that the season brings. As a school we believe outdoor learning time is incredibly important and we often plan activities outdoors to enhance learning. It's good for children's fitness levels, mental health, problem solving skills, resilience and helps them with learning across the curriculum. As our weather is often changeable and frequently unpredictable, please ensure that children are coming into school with sufficient warm and waterproof clothing so that they can enjoy all of the exciting learning opportunities that staff are planning.

Our football team played in their first matches of the season last week and some of our Years 5 and 6 took part in the first Cross Country event at Eaton Bank this week.

Have a fabulous weekend!

Iestyn Lewis

## MacMillan Coffee Morning

Last Friday, we hosted our MacMillan Coffee Morning. An enormous thank you to Mrs Harper for organising a wonderful morning and to all the helpers for making it possible. We were also overwhelmed and very grateful for all the cake donations. We raised a fantastic £736.60!

Fundraising for

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

## Forest School Contribution

Forest School is a bit part of our learning and school. We are asking for a small donation of £10 for the year for Forest School to cover the costs of food, resources and a local trip and this is already set up on your ParentPay account. If you are able to do this, we would be very grateful as we will be able to enhance our provision even more.





## World Mental Health Day

Miss Hurst has already shared on Dojo that we are celebrating World Mental Health Day next Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October. Please help us to raise awareness of this day by wearing something yellow as part of our uniform. This could be a yellow tie, hair ribbon, socks, etc.. anything yellow!



## Class Dojo

Class Dojo has got off to a brilliant start again this year and the children are responding very well. Thank you for all your engagement and support with this and, if you haven't done so already, please join your child's class.

There are some really useful functions on Class Dojo such as the School and Class Stories and Messaging. Parents/carers can message teachers; however, a response will only be given during the hours of 8.30am - 5pm Monday-Friday as the rest of the time teachers are set on 'quiet time'. Please be aware that teachers will not necessarily respond to messages straight away but will endeavour to do so within 48 hours, during working days only. They may also not read the message that you have sent until the end of the day due to their teaching commitments.

Parents/carers should not use this messaging tool to enquire about the progress of their child but can use it to arrange a meeting with class teachers to discuss any questions they may have. The following matters should always go through the main office: • Absence (such as medical appointments or medical results). • Sickness. • School dinner enquiries. • Urgent messages (e.g. collection of children). • Safeguarding concerns.

## September 2024 intake

If you know of anyone thinking of joining our Smallwood family, please point them in our direction and we would be more than delighted to show them around our wonderful school. All they need to do is ring or email to book an appointment.

We also have spaces in some year groups if you know someone thinking of moving or moving into the area.





## One-Way System and Parking

There have been a few comments recently about the "quality" of parking and how quickly some cars are travelling through the lanes around school.

Please be considerate when parking on the Village Hall car park and on the lane and please do not park on, or opposite, the yellow zig zags. We are very lucky to have the use of the Village Hall and we cannot, and will not, be policing it - we are relying on you, our parents, to use it in a sensible and courteous manner.

Can I please also remind you of the one-way system that we have in place for dropping off and picking up. Please approach the Village Hall car park by driving up towards school (from the direction of Martins Moss or around the triangle behind the Village Hall) and turning left into the car park. Please then leave by turning left out of the village hall.

It has also become apparent that some cars are parking on the corner of Church Lane/School Lane. This has caused some very near-misses as others having been pulling out of the junction.

We are very proud of our relationships with the community and its members and we all have a part to play in that.



## Parents' Evening

Don't forget to book your child's appointment - there are two evenings coming up; Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Bookings are now live via your parent login on the school website; if you haven't got one or can't remember your login details, please contact Miss Hurst or Mrs Blears as soon as possible.



## Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair will soon be upon us and this year it will be held in school on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December with doors opening at 2.30pm. Mrs Goodwin and Mrs Lofthouse are busy organising stall and activities so please do let them know if you are able to help out.



## Upcoming Events

Please have a look at the calendar on the school website for any upcoming events - this term is always busy with Harvest, Harvest Supper, MacMillan Coffee Morning, Parents' Evenings, Remembrance, Children in Need and Christmas!

[Smallwood Academy: Our Calendar](#)



## Weekly Attendance

The table below shows the weekly attendance by class. Well done Elm and Beech Class for achieving 100% attendance this week!

Period: 02/10/2023 to 06/10/2023

Scope: Reg Group Willow+Ash+Elm+Oak+Hazel+Beech+Maple

Number of Sessions

Group	Presents	AEA	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences	Possible	% Attend
Willow	296	0	4	0	300	98.7
Ash	235	0	15	0	250	94.0
Elm	280	0	0	0	280	100.0
Oak	252	0	22	6	280	90.0
Hazel	204	3	1	2	210	98.6
Beech	230	0	0	0	230	100.0
Maple	246	0	4	0	250	98.4
Totals	1743	3	46	8	1800	97.0



## JOIN US FOR A BREW!

Start your Friday day with a cuppa and good conversation!

From Friday 6th October the village hall will be open for you to have a drink and catch up.

The kettle will be on, there will be biscuits, possibly cake!

It would be great to see familiar faces and those new to school. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there.

Smallwood Village Hall - Friday's - 8.40am - 10.00am  
(Term-time)

Donations appreciated for refreshments.