



# NEWSLETTER

November 2020 Issue 3

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn is swiftly heading towards winter and the colder and damper weather, with darker nights, is setting in. But with that brings the lovely autumnal colours and crisp, fresh days. This is always a wonderful time to inspire our children about the changes in seasons, migration and hibernation amongst all of the other wonderful learning that we do. We know that in the backs of minds COVID is always looming and with the ever-increasing spread of the virus and the impact this is having on society, it can sometimes be very difficult to see beyond this. However, it is important for all of us, and especially the children, that we stay positive and focus on what we can do and what we can change. Being in school is the best place for our children so that their education can continue and they have the opportunities to see their friends and continue to develop the skills that are so important for their future success. We are, and will continue, to do everything we can to make sure that this continues during this difficult time.

## **Warm Clothes**

The windows in all rooms in the school need to be kept open to maintain a good flow of circulation, as detailed in our Covid-19 Risk Assessment. This does mean that school will be colder than usual. With winter upon us and the temperature getting colder, please ensure that children are wrapped up in additional warm layers under their uniforms.

## **Contact Details**

If your contact details, circumstances or home address have changed recently please let the office know by email so that we are able to contact you as quickly as possible if necessary.

## **Wrap Around Care**

Thank you for the really positive response to the recent survey monkey. Wrap around care is something we are hoping to be able to offer in the summer term – we will keep you informed.

## **Parents Evening**

Thank you for supporting us during a very unusual parent consultation procedure! Please remember that if you have any questions or concerns about your child or would like to speak to a teacher, Mrs Morris or Mrs Allies, please email or call the office in the first instance.

## **After School Clubs**

Unfortunately we are unable to run any afterschool clubs while the children remain in bubbles. Our bubbles simply include too few children who are able to take part to make a club financially viable for the company or person that runs it. We are constantly reviewing options and hope that as restrictions on bubbles ease this will change.

## **Starting School Reminder**

The closing date for applications to Year R 2021 is midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

## Christmas Collection

Elliemay in Year 6 has written this wonderful letter to parents:-



Dear Parents, Carers,

The children of Sopley School would like to support our local community this term. Usually we would be busy filling shoeboxes for children around the world but this year we haven't been able to. Instead, we want to be help the people in our local community by collecting food and donating it to the local foodbank.

Please help us make Christmas special by donating food to school with Christmas packaging – such as Christmas cake, chocolates, Christmas biscuits, stuffing, tins of ham and tins of salmon.

The foodbank has plenty of pasta, tea, cereal, beans and soup already.

Each house team will have their own coloured box for collecting any items brought into school.

We would really appreciate any contributions.

Thank you,

*Elliemay*

## Outdoor Learning Day

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December the children will get to enjoy another outdoor learning experience! It is being run a little different his time, as it is just an afternoon. The children will be making a class stick Christmas tree, a stick whittling Santa or twig snowflakes. Please could children wear their school uniform; T- shirt and jumper with warm trousers, wellington boots and a warm coat. A reminder will be sent out the day before.

## Friends of Sopley School and The Magic of Christmas Event Day

We have some exciting news to share from the Friends of Sopley School...they have wonderfully organised 'The Magic of Christmas' an event day for all the children to enjoy in school on Friday 11th December. There will be a Christmas Magic Show, performed to each bubble group separately, by Simon Western from Count Backwards. The magic show will be held in the hall which will be well ventilated, Simon will be at a safe distance from the children at all times and after each show the hall will be sanitised ready for the next bubble. For the rest of the festivities during the event the children and staff will remain in their bubbles to enjoy this special day and all children and staff will continue to follow their everyday routine to keep themselves and each other safe. Thank you to those who have already made the voluntary £5 donation to the FSS PayPal account. If you would still like to make a payment please go to [paypal.me/thefriendsofsopley](https://paypal.me/thefriendsofsopley)

## The Easy Fundraising App

Easy fundraising donates a percentage of all eligible purchases to school at no extra cost to ourselves. Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) or download the app to your mobile and create an account. Click find a cause, search Sopley School and follow the onscreen instructions.

## Bubble Closures

Should we need to close a bubble due to a positive case of COVID it is likely that this will be at very short notice and will be for a 14 DAY PERIOD from the last contact the person testing positive had with school. We will notify all parents via text message and email as soon as possible. If we can inform parents earlier of course we will do so in order to give you as much notice as possible as we appreciate that arranging last minute childcare can be difficult.

## Online Safety

You may or may not be aware but there is a relatively new online game called 'Among Us'. This is based on the board game Cluedo. The age recommendation for this game is 10 years and older but we have been hearing some of our younger children talking about this game. Firstly this is a cause for concern for children who are accessing this game but it is also not the legal recommended age. Secondly, this gaming platform also allows any person to join and we would reinforce that parental controls should be in place because of this, as the children could be communicating with others who they do not know.

## Assembly Awards

### Value Certificates

The following children have received certificates for demonstrating our school values;

*Theodore, Nathaniel, Mia, Archie, Ethan H, Chloe, Charlie, Finley, Hetty, Betsy, Lilley C, Sofia F*

### WOW Work

The following children's work has been on display because their work has demonstrated enthusiasm and ambition towards their learning;

*Grace, Cleo, Ellana, Johnny, Elise, Ellen, Ben, Evren, Penelope, Joe H, Imogen, Thomas*

### Reading Award Badge Winners

*Grace, Amelie*

## Important Dates

<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Whole school outdoor learning
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Christmas lunch
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	FSS Magic of Christmas & Christmas Jumper Day
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Last day of term
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Return to school

