

## Dates for your diary:

### November

30 - Potential Industrial Action

### December

2 - Coffee Morning  
[Cashless Office]  
2 - Cake Sale 3RA  
8 - Y3 Performance  
[Shirley Methodist Church, 7-8.30pm]  
9 - Non-uniform Day  
(Blue Day)  
9 - Christmas Fair  
9 - School Bank  
9 - Cake Sale 5HS  
15 - Christmas Parties  
16 - Cake Sale 4RL  
Term Ends

### January

4 January - School Improvement Planning  
[INSET - school closed to children]  
5 - Children return to school  
6 - Coffee Morning  
19 - Parents' Forum [7-9]  
23 - Maths Week  
24 - Maths Workshop [7-9]  
27 - Maths Open Day

### February

13 - Half Term

### March

13-16 - Y5 in York  
29 - Parents' Evening

### INSET DAYS

23 April - TBC  
3 May - TBC

## Thought for the week

*Is a bird in the hand  
really worth two in the  
bush?*

In response to comments from staff and parents at our recent Parents' Evening I have put together some thoughts on our assessment process, describing how we give levels to children and what those levels mean. These can be found in full on the Parents' Pages of the website as [Explaining APP](#).

The teacher looks for examples described by the statements from the [APP grids](#), also found on the Parents' Pages, as they work with your child and mark their work. As they see them, they tick them off on the grids. When the child has gained three ticks for that statement, the teacher highlights it. As the child accumulates statements the teacher can assign a working level to that child. If around a quarter of the statements at level 3 were highlighted we would say that the child was a low 3, formerly a 3c. As more statements are gained, up to around 90% the child moves to a secure 3, formerly described as a 3b. If the child has all of the statements in level 3 highlighted and some from level 4, then we would say that the child was a high 3, formerly a 3a. This is the same for all levels and subjects.

The teacher can also see elements of a subject that need specific work as they may be weaker than the rest, say commenting upon the author's use of language in reading. In this instance a child can be given a statement from the level that needs to be achieved as a curricular target. These are shared with parents termly. Work is then planned to strengthen and extend this particular element of the subject, moving the child towards the next level.

As the child moves through school, we are able to say what level they should be at compared to their Y2 level. This becomes their expected level. Each term, just before Parents' Evening, we identify the level they are working at, their actual level. We then send both of these levels to you on the Parents' Evening invitation letter for reading, writing and maths so that you can see their progress and prepare for a discussion that explains any variance and what steps are planned for future progress.

I am really pleased to announce that, following the sad news of the departure of Mrs Long and Mrs Morgan, we have been able to appoint two teachers to take on their classes from January. Both teachers had strong days at interview and I am sure will certainly consolidate the strengths of the school. Both Mrs Jeyarajah and Miss Smith will be spending time with their classes over the next few weeks, getting to know the children well before January.

Despite continuing negotiations between unions and government, the possibility of school closure next Wednesday, 30th November, still appears strong. At this moment in time I would certainly work under the assumption that the school is closed to children unless we notify you otherwise.

Have a good weekend!

Mark



### The School Nurse suggests

I would just like this opportunity to remind everyone about thinking about internet safety and your child. It is important to keep children safe while using the internet and this can be achieved through a few simple measures that are suggested by the child exploitation and online protection centre (CEOP). Make sure that you have an internet filtering safety software system on your computer; it is recommended to use one with a child safety online kite mark. Also make sure that the computer is in a place in the house where you can see the children using it, remember that certain social networking sites such as Facebook have an age restriction linked to them. If parents would like more useful information CEOP can be accessed online.



### Parent Pay

Every parent should by now have received an Activation Letter from Parent Pay. **If you require a payment card please complete the slip on the bottom of the Activation Letter and return to the school office by Friday 2 December.**

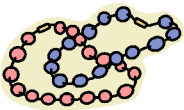


### Reminder

Can we remind parents that when there is a non-school uniform day in school it is important for your child's safety that they are wearing appropriate footwear. Thank you

### CHRISTMAS FAIR - YEAR 3 JEWELLERY ENTERPRISE

Everyone in school is now eagerly awaiting the school's annual Christmas Fair, organised by the PTA - to be held on Friday 9th December between 6.30pm and 8.30pm.



An exciting selection of treats and entertainment, along with special guests - Santa and his elves, will be on offer to those looking to get into the festive spirit along with stalls new for this year, including one set up by the enthusiastic Year 3 children. They have been hard at work during their Community Project sessions this term, carrying out market research and seeking sponsorship from local companies for their project - with The Fair being the showcase for their handcrafted jewellery. The collection - includes bracelets, necklaces, keyrings, bag charms and dazzling decorations for the Christmas Tree, which the children have designed and made themselves with support from expert Brian of 'The Bead and Button Bazaar', at Earlswood Craft Centre ([www.beadandbuttonbazaar.com](http://www.beadandbuttonbazaar.com)). Brian has given of his time freely to instruct both the children and staff in the making of these items, and a much appreciated group of parent helpers have meant 'making' sessions have been running smoothly! The enterprising project - inspired by popular TV shows 'The Apprentice' and 'Dragons Den' - has meant the school has not only forged links with 'The Bead and Button Bazaar', but also 'Monster Skips Ltd' ([www.monsterwasteservices.co.uk](http://www.monsterwasteservices.co.uk)) and 'Cinnamon Aitch' ([www.cinnamonaitch.co.uk](http://www.cinnamonaitch.co.uk)) who have invested in the entrepreneurial Year 3 Children. The generous children have elected to donate all profits from the sale of their jewellery to the local group of The RSPB. So if you are scratching your head about what to get as a gift for that special someone - or if you feel you need to treat yourself in the hectic run up to Christmas, visit Year 3's stall at the Fair and pick up a unique gift. There is something for everyone.



**Year 5 - Water Week** - Year Five have been busy in their community project sessions recently and an idea of a Water Week has developed. It involves us all saving as much water as possible, at home and school. This week will begin on Monday 5 December and will end on Friday 9 December. We shall hold a special water assembly with a visitor from Severn Trent on Wednesday 7 December and the week will end with a non uniform day 'Blue Day' on Friday 9 December. Hannah Jarman and Elizabeth Pomfret 5TB



**Blue Day** - Year 5 would like to inform you that a non uniform 'Blue' Day will be coming up. Your child is invited to come to school wearing blue on Friday 9 December. We hope to continue to raise awareness of how fortunate we are to have clean running water in our homes and schools. Donations for our chosen charity Water Aid can be made through their website: [www.wateraid.org](http://www.wateraid.org) Rachel & Ella 5TB Charity Community Group



### Spanish Words of the Week - Talking about the weather

Es un día precioso. (It's a beautiful day). Hace frío. (It's cold). Está nublado. (It's foggy.) ¡Está lloviendo! (It's raining.) ¡Está nevando! (It's snowing!)

