

# BULLETIN

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December, 2020



Nurturing inclusive learning communities

## Merry Christmas!

Thank you for all of your support over this term. All pupils have adapted well to new rules and routines around school and we appreciate your support in discussing these with them.

We would usually have just held our annual Christmas Craft and Coffee afternoon but as we haven't been able to we have tried to make the last few weeks as Christmassy as possible. We have watched a virtual pantomime, a virtual brass band extravaganza, held our own Christmas performances across Teams and had parties in our bubbles!



## Reindeer Run

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December we all took part in a Reindeer Run around the school grounds in aid of Kirkwood Hospice.

We had a fantastic time despite the rain and managed to raise over £350! Well done to everyone involved!



**THE  
KIRKWOOD  
SUPPORT  
LIFE**

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# Anti-Bullying Week

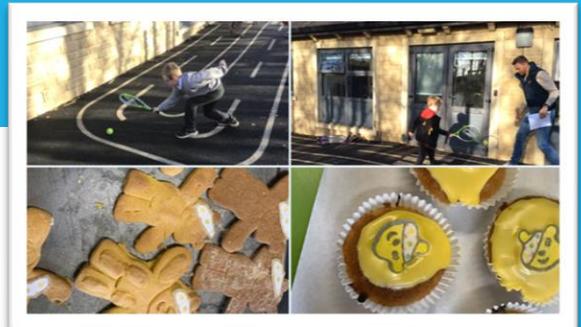
Everyone at Engage wore odd socks to launch Anti-Bullying Week. We worked towards demonstrating our core values by showing others respect and discussing the effect that our actions have on others. Our paper person shows that even if you say sorry, (to fix things), it doesn't mean that the person doesn't still feel hurt by your actions.



## Theme days

### Children in Need

Children in Need saw us all getting involved with physical activity in the outdoor area to promote our mental health. It was a great opportunity to use the tennis equipment that we were lucky enough to win from SportsDUK.



### No Pens Day

All pupils took part in oracy based activities to celebrate No Pens Day to raise awareness of speaking and listening difficulties. Penguins worked together after reading The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch to create their own baskets which sent food from one side of the playground to the other.

## Theme days coming up...

Next half term we shall be having a Chinese themed day to celebrate the Chinese New Year. As well as learning about where China is as part of our geography, we shall be food tasting and learning how to write in Chinese.

We shall also be learning about Australia to celebrate Australia day and trying out some Aboriginal art.



# Our Nurturing School

At Engage Academy, we use a nurture based approach to support our pupils by:

- Offering plenty of opportunities to talk about their thoughts and feelings, helping them to make better choices;
- Our curriculum is personalised to ensure every child's individual learning and emotional needs are met;
- We support pupils to develop resilience, tolerance and respect towards others in our school and the wider community;
- We help to support children through various transitions during their placement at Engage Academy



## Parent Partnership

As a school we really value our relationships with not just the pupils but the whole family. This has been much more difficult to sustain during Covid but we have tried hard to keep in contact with you through virtual meetings, phone calls and offers of support for any areas that you have found difficult. We are looking forward to the time when we can invite you in to join your child in keyworker sessions, 1-1 activities and coffee afternoons again.

We are nearing the completion of our Leading Parent Partnership Award which has enabled us to track and improve upon the ways in which we support parents. However, we know that there is always room for improvement so if you have any suggestions on how we could further improve our links with parents then please mention them to your child's keyworker.

We have plans for a parent café coming as soon as we are able Covid wise so keep a look out for further information.



## Parent Consultations and Reports

Thank you to everyone for accessing the parent consultations this last week. We were thrilled to hear all of the positive feedback around how settled children were and how well supported you all feel. A few parents asked for more learning level information which you will all be receiving in your child's termly report alongside this letter.

If there is anything that you wish to discuss further then please don't hesitate to ask.

## Twitter

We are now on Twitter and will be sharing exciting news and photos regularly.

Please take a look at [@EngageAcademy](https://twitter.com/EngageAcademy).



# Celebrating Achievement

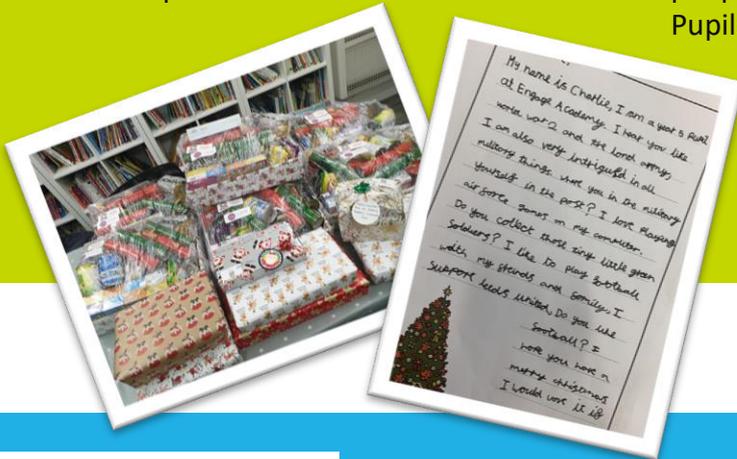
We have been impressed by the fantastic work produced by pupils this term and how proud they are of themselves. Keep an eye out for one of our value postcards coming home to celebrate their achievement.



# Supporting Each Other

We have had lots of support over the term from various companies including Batley Bulldogs and The Jo Cox Foundation who have sent us Christmas hampers to send out to some families.

To give back to our local community we have written letters and cards for the charity Give a few...words who send the letters to local lonely people to try lift their spirits over Christmas. Pupils have really enjoyed being involved in this.



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# Online Safety Awareness

#givesafegifts



Many children and young people have access to, or own the latest gadgets such as tablets, smart phones and games consoles.

If you're thinking about buying your child a games console, but are unsure how to keep your child safe online, Xbox and PlayStation have both created apps for parents and carers that will give you peace of mind.

The apps give you access to everything your child is doing online and who they are talking to. Both of these apps are available from your app store on both Android and Apple mobiles.

You can find out more by searching "[give safe gifts West Yorkshire](#)".

## Buying a mobile phone for a child or giving them your old mobile?

Most mobile phone providers offer free parental control services which limit the content children can access via the mobile network to items suitable for under 18s. However, they may not always be automatically switched on.

Check with your service provider that the parental control settings are switched on, and ask for them to be switched on if they are not. This is particularly important if the phone was used by an adult before.

## Parental controls

You should set up parental control on all the devices that your child uses. This includes those devices that belong to other family members when your child uses them.

Setting parental controls will help to keep your child safe while they are online by:

Blocking inappropriate content

Limiting in-app purchases

Managing which apps children are allowed to download.

You can set up parental controls on individual devices and on your home WiFi. Most service providers will offer free parental control services and will help you to activate this if you contact them.

You should also activate the privacy settings on each app that your child uses, as well as ensuring that location sharing is 'off' on their device.

**Merry  
Christmas**

**Have a lovely Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.**