

A BIG thank you must go to the small yet dedicated team of helpers who came to school on Saturday for the DIY afternoon. Working in small socially distanced bubbles the team helped to clear the gardens, repair and revamp the Year 1 and 2 outdoor area and build then put up additional resources such as flower beds and chalk boards in all of the outdoor classrooms, including the new KS2 outdoor area, that is beginning to take shape! A special thanks to the Wilson family for providing a bucket for us to put garden waste in and more importantly take the rubbish away also to the Turnham family for providing the soil and compost for the new flower beds. Thank you to Mr Webster for organising the delivery of the gravel and the bark and for helping to build the boarder around the outdoor classroom for the Year 1 and 2 children.

These afternoons, although tiring really are good fun (and I mean it!) Thank you to Hannah and Caroline for organising the event so successfully and to our band of very merry helpers; Oliver & Lisa Gregory, Stuart Webster, Sarah Eames, James & Caroline Ferguson, Drew Cullingham, Hannah Bartlett-Syree, Allistair Gibson, Tom Rocks, Claire Powell, Tim Hawtin, Sharon Patterson and Miss Palmer – You all need a house point!

This week the children have made Christmas cards ready to be printed by the company Cauliflower Cards. All cards have been posted on your child's see saw page along with the all-important order number that you will need. Please go to <https://xmas.cauliflowergroup.co.uk> to place your orders. All must be placed on line by 5th November. School gets a commission for every pack of cards or other goods ordered which goes into the school fund.

A message from the Friends:

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who came along to help [on Saturday afternoon](#), it was so lovely to see new faces from nursery and reception getting involved! It was a massive team effort and there were a lot of achy limbs on Sunday but it was well worth it just to hear the (very high pitch) excited squeals as the children discovered the new additions!

It's not always easy to find the time to take part in these DIY days as we all lead such hectic lives but they really do make a tremendous impact on the outdoor learning environment at school and they're actually great fun and a super way to meet other parents at the school!

We already have a long list of things to do at the next DIY day, so please do come along and give it go if you can.

Thursday 12th November - Mufti Day

Come to school in Mufti (non-uniform) or Fancy Dress in exchange for a donation towards our Wish Upon a Star hampers!

This year each year group is being asked to donate items to help us create a range of 8 fantastic themed hampers as prizes for Wish Upon a Star. (More details to follow from your year rep about what your class hamper theme is along with a list of ideas).

As you know sadly this year we will be unable to hold our lovely Christmas Fayre to raise money for school, so we will be focusing all our fundraising efforts on our "Wish Upon a Star Raffle" in December, together with our Tea Towel fundraiser (back after 3 years by popular demand! More details to follow after a Half Term).

Syresham Christmas Lights and Elf Door Trail 11th - Sunday 13th December.

We're absolutely delighted to announce that Alexander & Co have kindly offered to sponsor this event... which means we now have a creative crack team of Santa's helpers busily creating a wonderful Elven Village which will magically appear at 4.30pm each evening. Trail maps will be available to download from our new portal www.pta-events.co.uk/thefriendsofsyreshamschool/ and the Post Office from the beginning of December. Those of you living in the village that would like to get involved... we would ask you

to make an extra special effort with you Christmas Lights this year to make it even more magical as the children explore the village!

We really do hope that you will get behind all of these fundraising projects, so that we can replenish our coffers and fund a range of fun in school experience days for the children to enjoy throughout the winter months. Thank you all again for your continued support.

The Friends really have come up trumps this week as they also organised a themed movie afternoon for the four classes. I hope you all enjoyed seeing the photos on seesaw and I hope your children weren't too high on sugar when they left school! It really was a great way to bring an end to this half term. I am very proud of how everyone has worked together in such difficult circumstances. Thank you to every family for continuing to keep yourselves and your families safe and well at this time. It is no coincidence that this has helped us here in school to have a successful 7 weeks together. I would also like to thank all of the staff for working so hard this term and would like to end with a poem that I was sent this week, that feels a fitting way to end the week – Well done everyone!

T'was the week before half term and all through the land,
The teachers were tired of washing their hands.
Of cleaning the desks, and the drawers and the pens,
Of reminding their class not to cuddle their friends.
Of handgel and soap, of bleach and of wipes,
Of passwords and google and all things that swipe.
Of trying to stand at the length of a lion,
From friends whose shoulders they wanted to cry on.

T'was the week before half term and all through the land,
The parents were trying to make up great plans.
That don't involve meeting, or greeting, or places,
That in these strange times don't resemble safe spaces.
They look to the teachers, and all they have done,
To make school inviting, inspiring and fun.
To see past the problems, the issues and rules,
To bring back the joy and excitement of school.

Thank you for being the safe place, the learning,
For standing there strong with the children returning.
For finding solutions that don't feel so strange,
With no funds or magicians to help you arrange.
For stories and spellings and phonics and play,
For taking the fear of this moment away.

Esther Nzenza October 2020

We will be organising Parent/Teacher zoom meetings for the week beginning 9th November giving you all the chance to speak to your child's class teacher about their progress. The zoom meetings are our Covid-Safe replacement of our usual face to face meetings held each term. You will be emailed a time slot and access link the week before.

As part of our school "Track & Trace" please can you email us if any member of your family bubble starts to show symptoms or has to have a test. Please use both head@syresham-ce.northants-ecl.gov.uk and cc bursar@syresham-ce.northants-ecl.gov.uk thank you for your help and support.

Have a safe and restful half term, see you on **Tuesday 3rd November.**
Mrs Clough

Headteacher Awards this week

- Reception** - Grace
- Year 1&2** - Hugo & Ivor
- Year 3&4** - Louie
- Year 5&6** - Jacob & Jack

