

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**Dear Parents & Carers,**

Here are some highlights of the last week in school.....

**Elm Class** – have been learning about the Nativity story in their RE lessons with Mrs Macaulay. This week the children used a selection of beautiful Nativity sets to act out and retell the story in groups.



**Oak Class**



Our families donated some lovely plants and bulbs to the Oak Class outside area, so we have been gardening this week. It was fascinating to look at the root systems of the weeds we dug out when preparing the planters for new plants and bulbs. Thank you so much to everyone who made this lovely activity possible; we are all now eagerly awaiting Spring!



**Ash Class** children have been involved in two sporting competitions this week;

**Pembroke Park Football Competition** - On Thursday, we went to the delayed football competition held at Pembroke Park. There was a great team spirit, with everyone playing for each other and the school; from Lleyton making some fantastic saves, to Joey scoring a wonderful bending goal. We were very lucky because the rain held off until we were on our way home. Many thanks to everyone who made this opportunity available to the children, including Mr Latter who volunteered to accompany and coach the children.

**Broad Chalke Netball Competition** – This morning we played five matches at Broad Chalke in the brilliant sunshine. The team again played very well together, we have received comments complimenting the children on their fair play, and sports-person-ship, which, added to their third-place result, is very impressive. Many thanks to all those who contributed time, dedication and enthusiasm to allow the children to have the chance to take part, including one of our Governors, Miss Poole, who accompanied the children.



**Car Parking** – as some of you have mentioned, there are still some people driving up to the staff car park gates, and then reversing back into Shutts Lane – which is evidently not safe. Having spoken to several people, it appears that this is undertaken to avoid the need to either remove or leave younger siblings in cars whilst dropping off Coombe Bissett Primary pupils. As a way around this problem, we are trialing a system that will see a member of staff on duty between 8.40am and 8.50am at the pedestrian gate by the Village Hall. This means that, if you wish, rather than walking all the way down to the school, you can drop your child(ren) off and they can walk down the path with their school friends; whilst you are secure in the knowledge that the member of staff is present. If you or your child(ren) would like to continue to walk all the way to school together, please park in the Village Hall car park as usual.

**Safeguarding** - Our safeguarding network group has alerted us to a new APP that is a safeguarding risk for children. Please be aware of the following and monitor closely what APPs your child is using on devices. We are always happy to support you if have any concerns around your child's safety online.

*Caution - New app on the rise - Picnic*

We been made aware of this new app which children, as young as 9 years old, may be downloading and using; feedback suggests they think it is the alternative 'TikTok' for children.

Just like other social media platforms, Picnic allows users to message/chat to other users - both friends and strangers. Simply by joining an interest circle, children are immediately at risk of 'meeting' people who are there to scam, groom or deceive them. There is also the concern of image sharing. Once a photo or video is posted on the Picnic APP, your child loses their control of that image or video.

They are also running what they call a 'Creator Program' which gives those using Picnic the ability to make money by creating content/adding images that promote the Picnic APP to others - no matter the size of your follower base. The prospect of making money for creating and submitting

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content is incredibly appealing to many young people, especially when one way of receiving funds is in the form of a Roblox giftcard.

Please be vigilant and know what your children are accessing online.

### **Planning for Christmas**

Mrs Pendleton is organising a Christmas tree for the St Thomas's Church Christmas Tree Festival again this year. The festival takes place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November until Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Please see attached information.

Week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> December the School Christmas post box will be available for children to post their Christmas cards. Please ensure the recipient name and class is written on the envelope. Deliveries will be made on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Oak class nativity and carols at St Michaels & All Saints Church, Coombe Bissett at 1.30pm.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Elm class nativity and carols at St Michaels & All Saints Church, Coombe Bissett at 1.30pm.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper day in aid of Save the Children - please bring a suggested donation of £1. Friends of Coombe Bissett Christmas Mini Fair during the school day

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December – School Christmas lunch in the Village hall followed by class parties. Children can wear their (sensible) party clothes to school on this day.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Last day of term, early finish of 1.30pm. Please join us at 1.10pm for Christmas Carols in the School Hall.

**Christmas Box Appeal 2022** - We would like to encourage as many as possible of families to take part in this year's Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. Please see the accompanying flyer or use the following link to find out how you can create your own unique present for a marginalised child, woman or man living in poverty in Southeast Europe.

[https://www.fscinet.org/what-we-do/christmas-box-appeal/?\\_ga=2.91216282.1218211506.1668774548-456522807.1668774548](https://www.fscinet.org/what-we-do/christmas-box-appeal/?_ga=2.91216282.1218211506.1668774548-456522807.1668774548)

Please bring in your shoe boxes on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and we will arrange for them to be delivered to the collection point.

**Bags2School** – The Friends of Coombe Bissett School have arranged another textile collection in order to raise funds for the school. Please bring your bags to school week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> December; bags will be collected at 9am on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. See accompanying letter for more information.

**Assistance for Serving Personnel** - Serving personnel across the UK will be entitled to free wraparound childcare from this September. Service families with children aged 4 to 11 years will be eligible for 20 hours free childcare per week. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childcare-for-service-children>

**Child Care Assistance** - HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is reminding families who may be missing out on Tax-Free Childcare to register. Families receive up to £500 every three months (£2,000 a year) per child, or £1,000 (£4,000 a year) if their child is disabled, helping towards the cost of before and after-school clubs, childminders and nurseries, holiday clubs and other approved childcare schemes. <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs>

Have a great weekend.

Mr L Coles –Acting Headteacher

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## Rewards this Week

### A Reminder about Team Points & Green Cards

**Team Points** are awarded for work – for example whether it is particularly difficult, particularly challenging for a specific child, or whether they have demonstrated perseverance – stickatitability.

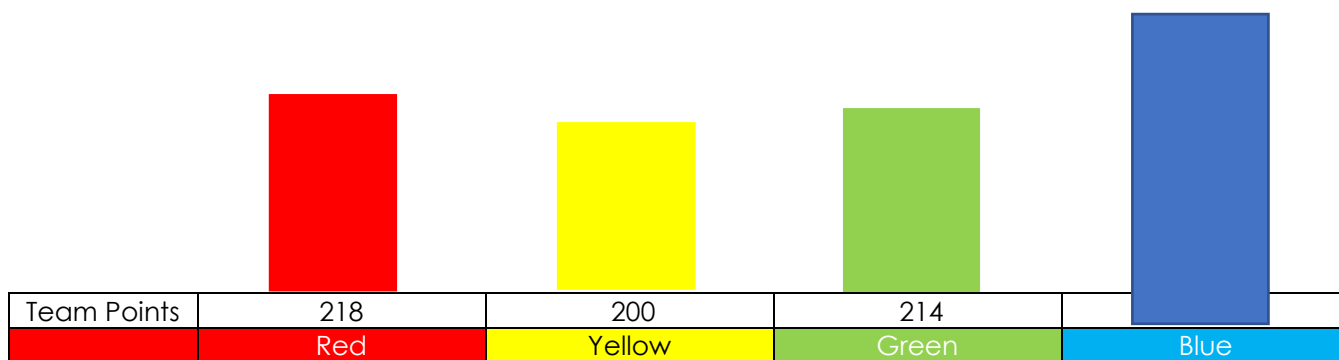
Each week's Team Point scores will be added to those of preceding weeks to make a cumulative score over the whole year.

**Green Cards** are based on school values (this term's is Belief) and will be awarded to children who show how they fulfil one of the targets on the card. Any member of school staff can award a Green Card to any child. The Green Cards are counted in two ways:

They are counted by House and added to the Team Point Scores, to see which house will get the House Trophy. They are counted by Class each week to see which class will have a non-uniform day the following week.

### Team Point Totals for this week:


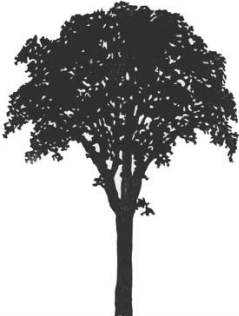


Well Done to everyone awarded a Team Point or Green Card, with particular Congratulations to **Blue House – the winners this week with an amazing 251 points.**



### Team Point Running Totals for the Year so far

2092	1986	1984	1850
Red	Yellow	Green	Blue

### Green Cards by Class

			
34	27	128	82
Oak	Elm	Fir	Ash

**Wow Congratulations to Fir Class who will have a non-uniform day next Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.** (Please can children wear sensible clothing suitable for the school day.)

**Attendance figures for each class last week:** Ash class – 93.9%

Fir class – 95.0%

Elm class – 93.7%

Oak class – 96.9%

Congratulation to **Oak class** who had the best attendance last week