

# Morton Newsletter

Wow, how are we already in the second half of the Autumn Term - time just goes so quickly!

This half term is one of the busiest in the school calendar. As well as all the learning that will be taking place in classes, we also have Christmas to prepare for and celebrate. All of the dates that you will need are on this newsletter and you will also find them on the school website.

As the weather starts to get colder, please make sure that children are wrapped up warm as wherever possible we will be getting them outside in the fresh air.

😊 Miss Jackson



## Experiences and visits

We believe that a variety of experiences, trips and visits enhance the learning that we do in class. To fit in with the curriculum, we have a 2 year cycle for trips so that we can ensure your children are getting experiences that match their learning and that they are not repeating trips. As with most other things, the costs of these continue to rise - with the average cost of a coach now being about £350. We do what we can to keep the cost as low as possible for you - school are able to subsidise a part of the cost and we are very lucky that the FoMPA also give us a contribution.

For your information, this is a plan of the trips that are being arranged for this year:

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Willow					Tropical butterfly farm	Matlock Meadows Farm
Sycamore		Toys workshop in school		Perlethorpe Education centre		Sleepover in school
Maple	Severn Trent Workshop	Weston Park museum		Greek workshop in school	Robin Hoods Bay residential	
Hazel	Viking in school		Cromford Mills		London Visit	
Whole school		Pantomime				

More details will be sent out nearer the time, but please ask if you have any questions.

## OPAL - Field update

We are lucky at Morton to have a lovely school field, unfortunately we are not able to use it as much as we would like as there is not a secure boundary around it. The great news is that the Djanogly Learning Trust have agreed to fund the cost of a secure fence. We are currently waiting for planning permission but are hopeful that we will soon have a fence and be able to start playing on the field - this will greatly enhance our OPAL offer.

Once we have a fence, we are planning on holding a field development day where we ask parents and other family members to come and help us make the field an exciting place for our children to play. More details will be shared when we know more about when the fence might be built.

Once we can use the field, we will also be asking children to bring in wellies and waterproofs so that we can continue going outside even when the weather is not great.

## Diary Dates

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Nov - School starts  
Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Nov - Parents evening  
Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Nov - Parents evening  
Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Nov - Children in Need Day  
Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Nov - Individual photos  
Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Fayre  
Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Dec - Trip to the Pantomime  
Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas dinner day  
Wed 11<sup>th</sup>, Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Dec - Sycamore and Willow Christmas performances (pm)  
Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas party  
Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec - Carol service at the church  
Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec - School closes (no after school club)  
Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan - INSET  
Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Jan - School starts



## Curriculum

Thank you for all of your support with the curriculum homework - the creations that I saw the children coming in with last half term were amazing!

We are always striving to improve our curriculum offer and this half term have invested in Purple Mash to support the teaching of computing. This is something that the children can access at home so I am sure that they will soon be bringing home login details.

**Willow Class** - will continue their learning through the seasons with a focus on celebrations.

**Sycamore Class** - *Why do Things change?* This is a history theme in which the children will be learning about how toys have changed in the last 50 years - please talk to your children about toys that you used to play with.

**Maple Class** - *Tomb Raiders*. In this theme children learn about the Ancient Egyptians and how they helped to shape the world we live in today.

**Hazel Class** - *Frozen Planet*. This is a Geography unit in which the children will be learning about what life is like in arctic biomes.

For more details please see class pages on the website.

## Friends of Morton Primary Academy

A big thank you to the wonderful FoMPA who have started the year off in fantastic style planning and raising money to support our school. Already, they have held a successful pumpkin decorating morning and Halloween disco which have been enjoyed by all of the children.

I have also been informed this morning that they have successfully bid and won £1500 from the blue token scheme at Tesco! We will be using this money to buy new equipment to support DT lessons in school. Watch this space for photos of children engaged in preparing and cooking food.

## Picture Gallery

