



— *St Ethelwold's VA School* —

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S

Good afternoon and welcome to your weekly St Ethelwold's VA School newsletter.

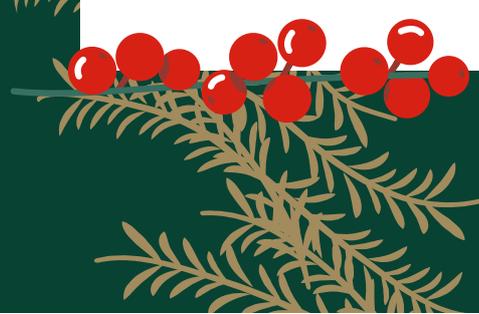
We start this week with exciting news. In September we received the following email from North Wales Police:

Op Bang Challenge – do you know a young person who would love to take part? Do you run a group of young people who could benefit from this challenge then read on...

We, in partnership with the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service have launched #OpBangChallenge – an opportunity for children and young people to complete a project to better their community in some way. With Halloween and Bonfire Night fast approaching, we want to ensure celebrations are safe and enjoyable for everyone.

We're calling on children and young people aged between 5 and 18, or for any clubs/community groups to come up with projects which could look at matters such as promoting road safety or looking at how something could be improved in their community. This could involve looking at neglected spaces to help prevent fires or safeguarding vulnerable members of the community during the Halloween and Bonfire Night period.

Cash prizes of up to £100 will be available for individuals, or any groups that enter could be in line to win £750 for their club.





Mr Griffith and Class 4 took up the challenge - over to you Mr Griffith for an update on what happened...

"When we heard about the Competition we discussed how it suited our School Values of Kindness and Community. We have always had a strong link with our neighbours who live in the bungalows close to school, so we decided to try and develop something that would help them through the Halloween period. We discussed how some elderly residents would be anxious about Halloween as they may have unwanted visitors knocking on their door 'Trick or Treating'. We showed lots of empathy and understood that unwanted trick or treaters could indeed be dangerous, as the elderly residents could be unsteady on their feet so lots of journeys back and forth to the front door could be troublesome.

We decided we would create double sided posters - that could indicate if Trick or Treaters were welcome or not. We discussed how they needed to be clear - so they could be read from a distance and also how they needed to be polite so no one took offence. Every pupil designed their own posters using a combination of hand drawn pictures and ones downloaded from the internet. We then enlarged them to A3 to make them nice and big and laminated them back to back. We then realised that just posting these through the doors of the residents might be a little confusing so we decided to draft a letter explaining why they were receiving the posters.

Once the letters and the posters were all ready we headed off around the estate and posted them through the doors. We were then thrilled to see a couple of days later, the posters up on display in the bungalows. After half term a number of the class went for a walk around the estate to glean some feedback from the residents. The feedback was brilliant and made us feel so proud of ourselves. The residents were full of praise for the idea and said that they had kept the posters so they could use them 'every year'!





We sent off our logbook of what we had done to the Op Bang Challenge and patiently waited for the results.

After a few days Mr Griffith received an email and read it out to us... WE HAD WON A CASH PRIZE! So that meant we were in the top 3 of all the schools. We couldn't believe it! Mr Griffith explained that the Op Bang Challenge organisers would be visiting school with our cheque later in the term."

The Op Bang Team are visiting on Monday to reveal which prize the class have won...

We have a full week of Craft Activities planned next week as well as parties, Christmas lunch and our annual visit to deliver cards and presents to the local community of pensioners.

We hope you all have a fabulous weekend, and we look forward to seeing you on Monday morning.

*Almighty God, who has poured upon us the
new light of your Incarnate Word; Grant
that the same light enkindled in our
hearts may shine forth in our lives
through Jesus Christ our Lord*

