



Monday, December 17th, 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a lovely way to end a term- two amazing performances from our KS1 and EYFS children which really demonstrated the true meaning of Christmas. It is always such a privilege to be a part of the progress that your children are making, and nowhere is this more evident than during a performance where the children's enthusiasm and confidence was palpable! This year I was even more impressed by the spirit in which the children supported each other on the stage; it is cheering to see that our core message of being `kind` to others is really showing through. Thank you so much for your attendance at these events; the children love seeing their family at the school, and we really appreciate your support.

Thanks also to Mrs Brown who led our choir as they performed at the Community Carols. I had several congratulatory emails afterwards, and they will be performing again, by popular request, at our own Carol Service!

Art Exhibition and Carol Service

We are all looking forward to the last two events of term: the Art Exhibition today at 3pm and the Carol Service on Wednesday at 1.30pm, and hope to see you there. Please note that children should be collected from the playground as usual and then we will be using the front entrance for visitors to enter the Art Exhibition. There will also be cakes and drinks in the main hall as Oak Class hold their Cake Sale to raise money for the PTFA. Children will be able to be taken home directly after the Carol Service, but we will return to school first to pick up belongings.

Buses will be leaving slightly earlier than usual at 2:45 so please be waiting earlier to collect your child/ren.

Lunchtimes

For the next half-term, we are going to trial a staggered system of lunchbreak for our pupils in order to ensure that they are stream-line and our excellent standards of behaviour are maintained throughout. We also recognise that this will be the bad weather term and are aware that freezing temperatures can mean that long uninterrupted periods spent outside are not always conducive to the children. Lunchtime clubs will continue, and children will have the same amount of time to eat their dinner. The length of the morning break will grow in order to ensure that children have adequate learning breaks, particularly in KS2. We will reflect on the success of this after a term.

New Breaktime/Lunchtime Schedule

Morning Break: 10.45-11.10am (Acorn class to take separate break)

KS1 Lunch Break: 12-12.45pm

KS2 Lunch Break: 12.15-1pm



Cold Weather

In advance of potential poor weather next term at the end of the school day, we will be opening up the school hall in the case of extreme cold or rain, so that waiting parents, carers and siblings can have adequate shelter rather than standing freezing on the school playground.

Clubs

A new clubs list will be circulated after the holidays. A big thanks to staff who have run the lunchtime and afterschool clubs- we have had a great range this term, and I hope that will be improved still further next term with a new Winter Sports club being run on a Monday after school.

Facebook

I have been overwhelmed by the supportive comments of some parents on Facebook, in the face of the typically misleading reportage of the school's performance tables that have just been published. There is a distinction which needs to be made between progress data from KS1 to KS2 and attainment data which reflects the actual results achieved by the children in the end of Key Stage assessments.

We know that, due to an unfortunate cocktail of distorted data, historical issues and a completely different curriculum from 2014, brought in partly to eradicate inflation of greater depth measures, we are not going to do well with progress measures until 2020 when we are at least comparing the same curriculum.

Where we are flying, and which sadly is not represented in the Government statistics selected for the DFE performance website, is in our attainment trends over the last three years. Please take a minute to look back over my previous letters and particularly the letter at the beginning of the school year, which clearly shows the outstanding EYFS and KS1 results, and the clear upwards trajectory of KS2 results over the last three years. In addition to this, our combined Reading/Writing and Maths percentage for attainment has risen this year from 45% to 63%, 2% above the county average and only 1% below the National average, a significant improvement reflecting an amazing effort from staff and pupils.

This is a good school, and that's not just my opinion, it's been verified by the DFE, the Local Authority and a panel of Headteachers. We are on our way up, and I am not going to let people get away with denigrating our school based on selected misleading information which has been taken out of context. Moving on!

Christmas Holiday Camp

Just a reminder that this is being run on Thursday, 20th December between 8.30am and 5.15pm- lots of winter sports and fun. Please sign up to this via Parentpay.

It is only fair to end this letter with a massive thank you to the people who make all these activities possible, the staff of our school. Through their tireless efforts we have got through a very long half-term....just about!..... and we are still smiling...just about!

I would like to wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you all re-energised and refreshed in the new year. Please enjoy a selection of photos of some of the term's activities overleaf.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Loader
Headteacher



