



Dear parents,

It's great to be back at school. Last week the children were bursting to share news of their Christmas holidays—we loved hearing about their fun and festivities.

If I haven't had the opportunity to see you yet: **Happy New Year!** Much has been achieved and much has been planned already for this year. Here's to a happy and productive 2018 for us all.

INSET Day

Many parents and children wonder what we do on INSET days. Though lots of tea and coffee are involved they are important days when the whole staff are together to review the impact of initiatives and undertake training to support further improvement. The teacher's had a productive INSET day at the start of this term. We invited a GCC trainer to update the whole school team on Child Protection & Safeguarding to ensure we undertake our responsibilities in line with best practise. Out of this our Safeguarding Policy and Offer of Early Help has been updated. Copies are available in the front entrance and on the website.

Extreme Reading Challenge

It was wonderful to see so many of the children take up the EXTREME READING CHALLENGE in the holidays. I've seen children reading on ice rinks, walking on water, in play areas and on horseback! Mrs Wood has created a great display in the hall and everyone has loved talking about the books read as well as the extreme places they were read! Reading is such a vital skill that supports children in their understanding and enjoyment of all subject areas across the curriculum-it was fantastic that so many of you took part.

Going for Goals

As we move into 2018 the children have been busy thinking about setting goals for themselves after a week of assemblies exploring 'Going for Goals'. Oliver and Scarlett helped to tell the story of a boy called Samindra who travelled over a mountain to buy a part for the family tractor that had broken. Samindra was resilient and overcame his worry and fear by encouraging himself. He told himself: I can do it, keep going, I will do it. The pupils I've spoken to have set themselves goals in a variety of areas: one pupil in Class 4 wanted to learn more about algebra and another to use their best handwriting consistently. Do ask your children about their goal.

Popcorn Nights

The children have the opportunity of snuggling in their PJs and onesies in the school hall soon to watch a film and munch some popcorn. The KS1 night is January 26th and the KS2 night is February 2nd. Tickets will be on sale from the school office soon. Thank you to Mrs Hayward and the PA team for organising the events.

Bags2School Collection

The PA are going to run another Bags2School collection on the 23rd January. We thought it would be an ideal time to declutter wardrobes after receiving stylish, new Christmas apparel. The clothes we collect are sold and will benefit those who rely on 2nd hand clothes as their sole option for good quality items. It also promotes the REUSE of clothes. If you wish to contribute, please bring your items in on the day by 9am (please do not bring them in before as we do not have storage space). Our special thanks are extended to Mrs Hudd for organising the collection.

Marathon Run

The school will be organising a sponsored marathon run for children again this year in February. The challenge for each KS2 class is to run a marathon between them at the school field and for Class 1 and Class 2 to run a marathon between them using the school grounds. The event will be sponsored and the proceeds split between school and Mrs Rome (who has set herself the goal of running the London Marathon this year). Mrs Rome's nominated charity is CLIC Sargent. This charity does fantastic work supporting children and their families who have cancer or leukaemia. This is a great opportunity for us to work together, get fit, have fun, support Mrs Rome and children who are facing health challenges. More information will follow from Mrs Rome.

School Lunches: Thursday 18th

Mrs Birch has already sent you letters but has asked me to remind you that there has been a change to the menu on Thursday 18th January - fish and chips will be on offer. She has also asked if you can ensure there are always sufficient funds in your Parent Pay Account to fund school meals—thank you.

2018-2019 Term Dates

In December we confirmed dates for the next academic year. These will be in the front entrance and on the website. As parents you are wonderful at working together with us to support your children's learning journey. Holidays in term time are a thorny issue and we do understand the issues involved. However we would ask you not to take holidays in term time—it does impact on the learning journey for children. We hope the early notice of term dates for 2018-19 will allow you to organise this.

Dates for your diary

We have listed below some of the key dates for your diary.

January

- Tues 2nd - INSET DAY (For staff)
- Wed 3rd - Start of Spring Term 3 for pupils**
 - Value for learning and life: Going for Goals
- Mon 8th - Value for learning and life: Cooperation
- Tues 9th - C4 Creative Dance day (parents welcome to the performance at 2.45pm)
- Mon 22nd - UNICEF article 27: Children have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and have basic needs met.
- Fri 26th - Class 5 Assembly (10.00am school hall - parents welcome)
- Tues 23rd - PA Bags2School collection
- Fri 26th - PA KS1 Popcorn Night, School Hall
- Mon 29th - Value for learning and life: Sense of fun

February

- Fri 2nd - PA KS2 Popcorn Night, School Hall
- Thur 8th - Y3/4 Museum in the Park trip
- Fri 9th - Class 1 Assembly (10.00am school hall - parents welcome)
- Fri 9th - Last day of Spring Term 3 for pupils**

Holiday for children: February Saturday 10th-Sunday 18th 2018

February

- Mon 19th - First day of Spring Term 4 for pupils**
 - Value for learning and life: Respect
 - Clubs start this week
- Mon 26th - KS2 Marathon Run
- Tues 27th - Rec & KS1 Marathon Run

March

- Thur 1st - WORLD BOOK DAY: Pupils dress as favourite character & other class activity
- Mon 5th - UNICEF article 12: Children have the right to give their opinion and have them considered.
- Fri 9th - Race Night (PA event) TBC
- Mon 12th - Value for learning and life: Friendship
- Thur 22nd - Y5 & Y6 Swimming—First lesson
- Fri 23rd - Class 4 Assembly (10.00am school hall - parents welcome)
- Mon 26th - UNICEF article 15: Children have the right to meet friends and join groups
 - Creative day
- Tues 27th - Creative day
- Wed 28th - Last day of Spring Term 4 for pupils**
 - Rights & Respecting Day
- Thur 29th - INSET for staff

Holiday for children: March Thursday 29th-April Sunday 15th 2018

April

- Sat 14th - Easter Egg Hunt: Playgroup & School PA
- Mon 16th - **First day of Summer Term 5 for pupils**

Thank you for your continued commitment and support. **Zoe Avastu**



Aiming high.....together