



### **Dear parents,**

Happy New Year! We've had a great start to term with children being excited to return to school to see friends and start learning. Our first assembly theme for the year was setting targets and it has been positive to see the children challenging themselves to grow nails, improve their grammar in writing and times table recall. A super start to 2019.

### **Online safety: Parent Information Evening**

We are delighted to hold a short information evening for parents about Online Safety. Mrs Hills, Joint Chair of the PA, has offered to run the evening to explain how we can work to keep children safe online. We will meet in the hall at 6pm on February the 6th. We expect the Information Evening to last about 30 minutes. All are welcome.

### **Healthy Living and Learning Award**

We are thrilled to have achieved the Healthy Living and Learning Schools Award for 2018-2021. The school has put in place many initiatives which have had a positive impact on the health of our pupils. Our recently started Take Ten initiative is running well to increase the activity in all classes— it's great to see the fun the children (and staff) have with the Go Noodle dances too!

We are planning a week of Health focussed afternoons looking at Physical and Mental Wellbeing later this term. We are hoping to include mindfulness sessions as part of this too.

Thanks go to Mrs Childs and our wonderful sports coaches Miss Mills and Mr Meloscia for all their hard work and skills in this area.



### **Percussion**

Class 5 are delighted to be starting their 10 week block of whole Class percussion with Mr Evans this week. He has planned for the sessions to cover: pulse, duration, dynamics, notation and more complex rhythm patterns. We will arrange an opportunity for the class to perform to parents near the end of their unit so you can enjoy the music created by the children too.

### **Class 4 Dance**

Class 4 wowed us with their dance performance last week. They worked with Sarah Shaw, our advanced skilled dance teacher, to create a wonderful dance on an African theme. It included traditional dance elements, African animals, deer hunting and a modern dance to celebrate freedom. The children shared ideas to develop the dance and performed with concentration. Mrs Shaw was incredibly impressed with their cooperation and obvious pleasure in creating the dance. Thank you Class 4 for giving us such a treat!

### **Popcorn Nights**

It is that time of the year when our wonderful PA organise Popcorn Nights for the children to enjoy. For Key Stage One children the date is January 25th and for Key Stage 2 it is February the 1st. Flyers have been sent from the PA and if you want further information then please ask at the office where you can now purchase your tickets. When buying your ticket please inform the PA leaders if your child has allergies—as popcorn and sweets will be on offer. Also, a reminder that parents need to accompany their children for KS1 Popcorn Night.

### **Swimming**

The Year 3&4 children have enjoyed starting their swimming sessions this term. A few nerves were overcome as they met their coaches, were assessed and grouped. The children will cover a range of skills this term including pool safety, water confidence and development of stroke development (front and back). Thank you to Mrs Burns, Mrs Yorke and Mrs Morgan for helping with the organisation. Thank you to our parent helpers who travel with us on the coach too— we couldn't do it without you.

## Child safety at the end of the day

We have received a letter from the Parish Council who are concerned over children using the churchyard as a play area after school. At the end of the school day, they are concerned that children run around the churchyard playing without adult supervision. This has raised several concerns:

- The Parish Council do inspect and check for damaged headstones etc (legally once every 5 years but they check annually). However there are some very old graves and these deteriorate. They are very concerned that an accident could happen resulting in child injury.
- They are concerned as the church wall itself becomes slippery when wet and children running along the wall may slip and become hurt.
- Furthermore, there is the matter of respectfulness in a churchyard – there are some newer burials in the churchyard with living relatives who may be upset/offended by children running over the graves.

Their overriding concern is the safety of the children so please can you ask your children not to use the churchyard in this way. Many thanks for your help.

## Dates for your diary

I have listed below some of the key dates for your diary:

### January 2019

- Mon 7th - **First day of Spring Term for children**
  - Assembly theme: Setting Goals
- Weds 9th - Class 4 Dance Day—parents welcome at 2.45
- Thurs 10th - Y3/4 Swimming sessions commence
- Mon 14th - Assembly theme: Patience
- Fri 25th - Popcorn night—KS1: 5.45pm-7.30pm
- Mon 28th - Assembly theme: Selflessness

### February 2019

- Fri 1st
  - Class 5 Assembly
  - Popcorn night –KS2: 5.45pm-7.30pm
- Wed 6th - Online Safety Parent Information Evening: 6pm: School Hall
- Mon 11th - Health Week
- Mon 11th - Assembly theme: Health
- Tues 12th - Mindfulness workshops for children (Hopefully a parent session at the end of the day too. TBC)
- Thurs 14th - **Last day of term 3 for children**
- Mon 25th
  - **Start of Term 4 for children**
  - Assembly theme: Unity
  - 1pm Y5/6 Cross Country Qualifiers at Painswick RFC
- Wed 27th - Visit from Welsh Birds of Prey

### March 2019

- Mon 11th - Assembly theme: Friendship
- Thurs 7th - World Book Day
- Fri 15th - Red Nose Day
- Tues 19th - African Drumming workshops
- Fri 22nd - Class 1 Assembly
- Mon 25th
  - Assembly theme: Care
  - Visit from Japanese students
- Thur 28th - Y5/6 Swimming sessions commence
- Fri 29th - Class 2 Assembly

### April 2019

- Thurs 4th
  - Grand Easter Egg Draw
  - **Last day of Term 4 for children**
- Fri 5th - INSET for staff
- Sat 6th - Easter Egg Hunt
- Tues 23rd - **Start of Term 5 for children**

### May 2019

- Mon 13th - Y6 SATS week



Thank you for your continued support,