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Dear Parents and Carers,

Family and Community Engagement

Thank you for your continued support this term. The Parent Council and our Family and Community Engagement events have been very successful with many more parents becoming involved in school life – thank you. I have followed up on many suggestions, one of them being a cashless payment system. I have found a system I particularly like and I am waiting for the Local Authority to approve the use of it but hopefully it will be soon!



Special Visitor



We have a very special visitor coming to the school on November 6th. Mrs Kirsty Williams, Welsh Government Minister for education in Wales is coming to our school. Following our Inspection she was invited to see our nurturing provision right from Nursery to Year 2 , including mindful massage, yoga and mindfulness sessions among other things. The children are excited to welcome her and our school ambassadors are ready with some questions for her.

Harvest

Thankyou to all the parents who came to see Owls and Deer assembly. The children were amazing. We will be donating the harvest produce to the Salvation Army and it will be given to those that need it. Thank you again for your generous donations.



Good luck to Miss Payne!



Miss Payne will leave us at the end of this half term to have her baby, but I am sure you would all like to wish her well. We have a new lady joining our team called Ms Chloe Morgans. Owls class have already met Ms Morgans when they made their stick men. She will liaise with Miss Payne to ensure a smooth handover before she leaves. We will look forward to seeing Miss Payne back at the end of the summer term.

Attendance

We have set our attendance target again this year at 95%. I have spoken to Governors and it has been decided again that any absence under 95% will not be authorised for holidays. Medical appointments are different. If your child is ill this still counts as an absence. We have Attendance as a target for improvement from our Estyn inspection recommendations and we therefore must try to improve it. I am very pleased to say that so far it is looking positive and we have very few children arriving late. I hope it continues to improve. Governors and myself are looking into the fixed penalty notices and whether it is something we need to adopt next September in line with other schools within the cluster. This is primarily designed to target parents who have regular days off each week such as a Friday and a Monday or who take a significant amount of holidays in term time. It is something I would appreciate your thoughts on at the next parent council on Wednesday 13th November. The agenda for the next meeting will be sent out shortly.



Here
Every day
Ready
On time

Disco



Our Pumpkin disco will take place next Wednesday (23rd October) from 3:30pm-4:30pm. Tickets are £1 per child (children 2 and under are free) and adults need to stay for the disco. Hotdog tickets are £1 each and these need to be bought in advance so that we can buy the correct number of hotdogs and rolls. We will also have drinks and other snacks available to buy on the night. Please see the school office or send in money for tickets.

Family Learning

Our “Language and Play” sessions will start after half term for Reception parent/carers and children. This will be a four week block where you can join in with your child’s learning in a small group setting. Look out for the sign up form on ClassDojo if your child is in Reception. After feedback from the Parent Council we will also be rolling out “Language and Play” family learning sessions for Year 1 and Year 2 later in the school year.



Operation Christmas Child



Each year we pack and collect shoeboxes for the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child Appeal. Our shoeboxes of gifts are sent to those less fortunate in other countries at Christmas time. Following feedback from our parent council we will be collecting SINGLE ITEMS to add to class boxes this year.

Please see ClassDojo for gift guidelines. We will be packing our class boxes during the week beginning 4th November (first week after half term). If you would like to make a donation towards your child’s class box, please give the item to their teacher.

Other news

We have many more exciting things happening in the near future, including sports activities for the children organised by the University of South Wales. We will keep you posted via our social media sites and ClassDojo.



Reminder

Next Friday (25th October) we have an INSET day and so school will be closed to children.

Thank you all for your support this half term.

Kindest Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Mrs Andrea Brett-Harris'.

Mrs Andrea Brett-Harris

