

Friday 18th December

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a relaxing and happy Christmas break. Hopefully you will have chance to rest and reflect on what has been an extraordinary year.

On behalf of all the school staff I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for their unwavering support over the last 9 months and for following the necessary changes we have put into school in terms of health and safety in order to minimise the risk of community transmission of COvid-19. It is very clear to me that it will be necessary in the Spring term to continue to work in bubbles with all the current protective measures in place. I know parents will support us to do this. We simply ask that you communicate with us. We ask that you ensure that you tell us if your child is going to or has had a coronavirus test and inform us of the results immediately. We ask that you follow self isolation regulations. It is imperative that parents are aware of the main symptoms and the underlying symptoms of the virus. Help us to protect you and your family and in turn protect our staff and their families.

I am sure that you will agree with me that my staff have been extra-ordinary this year. They have been amazing and are superheroes in my eyes. They have in the last term taught their own classes, whilst weekly prepared online learning for any member of the year group self-isolating, this is a huge extra commitment. They have carried out daily phone call checks this term to isolating families and I know this has been a great comfort and source of excitement for many children. The pace of working at this level has meant that staff are exhausted and now need to take a full two week break without working in order to prepare for what could be a difficult few months ahead.

We have had an amazing December in school. Christmas parties, dinners, jumpers, decorations, cards, treats and gifts have featured in every classroom with equal enthusiasm from staff and children. Thanks for facilitating this from home too!

Some staffing updates for you. Mrs Knee will commence her maternity leave at the start of January. Mrs Knee has been teaching Key Stage 2 classes remotely from home during her pregnancy and has done a fabulous job. Baby news will be shared in January. Mrs Nicky Hannam a very experienced French specialist teacher will be joining the staff in January to teach in Key Stage two. Year 5 pupils took part in her interview and they, like me were blown away by the highest standard of Modern Foreign Language teaching that she displayed. She will be an asset to our staff.

Mrs Child has stepped down from her Middle Leader role in charge of EYFS, she will remain with us as an experienced and much loved teacher by all the children in her care. Mrs Ward has been appointed as EYFS Leader and will commence this role in January. We wish her well in this promotion.

A reminder that school re-opens Tuesday 5th January.

Best wishes for the festive season.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

Clare Kelly