



Heather Herald

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Dear Parents/Carers of «Name»

«Class»

Happy New Year every one – I hope you all had an enjoyable time over the Christmas break. We have had a great week in school with Pioneers and Discoverers finally getting to see The Wizard of Oz at the Birmingham Rep and as they have already probably told you it was well worth the wait. This week we have also welcomed Mrs Thompson to our staff, who will be working in all classes to cover teachers' release time. You will have seen her in school before Christmas and she is a great addition to our team. We have also welcomed the families of Lexi, Casey and Roxy and Kayla to the school. They have settled in really well and we hope you have enjoyed your first week too.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate, in the first instant, to contact your child's class teacher Maxine Michalowski

PE Kits

Some parents have asked me if zipped hoodies/fleeces are ok for outdoor PE kits. These are fine but the children must zip them up so that they don't flap about when the children are running and catch someone. Outdoor kits of joggers and hoodies are essential at this time of year.

Termly Newsletters

Teachers have been busy redesigning the curriculum that we teach the children and new style termly newsletters will be coming out to you early next week.

E-Safety

Lots of children access Youtube and like to post their own videos. It has come to my attention that some children in upper key stage 2 have Youtube accounts and are posting videos. This in itself is not alarming but some children are using their full names as their user name and in the videos are disclosing information such as birth date, school etc. Obviously, this is not only a data protection issue, but also a serious safe-guarding concern. All children in school are having their half termly E-safety lesson over the next week but we would appreciate if your child uses Youtube that you chat to them about this and also check their Youtube account settings and the content of videos posted.

Governors

The staff and I would like to express our very grateful thanks to Dr Hannah Brewin whose position as co-opted governor came to an end just before Christmas. As most of you will know, Hannah's commitment to the governing body and the school has been outstanding and we are all very grateful for all of the time she has volunteered to the role. Hannah has now handed the role of Chair of Governors over to Keeley Downing, a parent of a child in Year 4, and they have spent time together discussing the role. We are still looking for new governors and have positions for a co-opted and two parent governors – more information will be sent out next week. If you are aware of anyone in the local community that would be interested in being a school governor, then please let Mrs Michalowski, Caroline Ludlam or Keeley Downing know.

New Year's Resolutions

The New Year always brings New Year's Resolutions so it seems a good time just to remind you all of a few things.

Registration - Doors open at 8:45am for the children to make their way down to their classrooms. Registration begins at 8:55am and the children are expected to be in the classroom ready to learn at this time. The front doors will close at that time. Registers are returned to the school office at 9am - any children who arrive at school after this time **or** the register has already been completed in the classroom will be recorded as a 'late'. Any children arriving after 8.55am will be recorded as late.

Belongings - Please make sure everything - including water bottles - are labelled. Five large carrier bags of lost property were taken to the charity shop just before Christmas - none of the clothing/shoes were labelled. If things are labelled, it makes it a lot easier to return belongings to the right person.

Independence - please encourage your child to pack their own school bags and carry their own bags to school as this helps them be more aware of what they need in school and check that they have the right things in school each day.

Celebration Assembly - just a polite reminder to say that the singing at the end is part of the assembly. We would like to encourage our visitors to join in with the song if they wish and would prefer it if any conversations that you need to have with other visitors take place when the children have left the hall.

Holidays in Term Time - Please remember that the government sets schools strict guidelines regarding holidays in term time. Holidays in term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances, all of which are outlined on the holiday request form. Governors monitor closely holidays that a small number of families have taken in term time and parents may be fined by the Local Authority if they choose to take their child out of school for an unauthorised leave of absence.

Weduc - As has been mentioned in several past newsletters, WEDUC is now our text message based communication system. Generally, as with most web based messaging systems, texts tend to go to the primary carer, this is the person who is listed as number one on your contacts form. Please make sure you check with the office that this is the right person and amend the contact details where necessary. Thank you to all of you who have downloaded the app. If you require another copy of the instructions regarding how to access WEDUC, please let the office know. Please remember the school mobile is no longer in use.

Many apologies if it all comes across as a bit grumpy - this just is the quickest way to get across our expectations.

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 12th January

Unity Cross Country @Woodstone School Ravenstone 10:30am start

Monday 14th January

Graham from AFA in school - letter sent home to the AFA children

Tuesday 15th January

Marle Hall Residential Meeting 3:30pm in Pioneers

Thursday 24th January

Healthy Child Programme Nurse Drop In 14:30pm-15:30pm

Mon 4th-Thurs 7th February

Theme Week - details to follow

Thursday 7th February

Open Afternoon - details to follow

Thursday 7th February

E-safety Parents meeting for parents and carers 2pm start

Tuesday 12th February

New Library Furniture being installed!

Thursday 14th February

Discoverer's Sharing Assembly @14:30pm

Friday 15th February

School closes for half term

Monday 18th February - Friday 22nd February Half Term

Monday 25th February

Back to school

Tuesday 26th February

NSPCC in school to do some assemblies

Saturday 16th March

Cross Country at Snaresstone 10:30 flyer sent out closer to the date

Monday 25th March (Provisional)

Author Neil Griffiths in school to work with children and meet with parents - more details awaiting to be confirmed

Friday 12th April

School closes for Easter

Monday 15th April - Friday 26th April - Easter Holidays