



16th February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have reached the halfway point of the school year, and there is plenty to celebrate, with our refurbishment of KS1 and Reception completed, and a lovely new fence for the EYFS children and their teachers. We now have begun to make longer term plans for additional improvements to learning spaces and the outdoor provision.

The Secret Garden

Our bid for Awards for All is underway, but takes quite a bit of time to process. In the meantime, School Council has asked to allocate a raised bed to each year group, so that children can grow flowers, fruit and vegetables of their choice. I would also be interested to know if any parents would be interested in starting up a Gardening Club for pupils to look at improve the spaces even more widely. Please let me know if you have any thoughts regarding this.

Our PTFA

Please consider coming to support our wonderful PTFA, who have done a remarkable job since my arrival in September! The many events they organise really help to fund additional items for school, and you can offer help as and when you are able. Can I thank Kate and the team for everything you do for our children.

World Book Day - Thursday 1st March

To celebrate this we are holding reading cafes throughout the day in each class. Everything will be provided by school. It will give the children the opportunity to read a wide variety of books in a café style environment. Throughout the first week back, we will also be adopting DEAR (Drop Everything and Read). Once a day a bell will ring and EVERYONE in school will stop what they are doing and will read for 5-10 minutes. It would therefore be helpful if every child (Y1-6) could bring a book of their choice to read during these periods.

Our Furry Friends!

Please can we remind families not to bring dogs into the school yard when dropping off and collecting children. They make some of our pupils nervous and we would be grateful for your support in this matter. Thank you.

Dinner Money

We hope that you are all finding the change to ParentPay has made things easier for you to arrange your commitments. Just a reminder that lunch money should, wherever possible, be paid in advance.

Attendance

Finally, we are attaching a flyer on attendance. Please can you read this carefully, in particular school start times, and also bear in mind that school follows national guidance on the approval of holidays during term time.

Peer Buddies

This week, 10 of our Y5 and Y6 children completed their two day training in the Peer Buddy Programme, as part of our Healthy Schools Award. They will be working on a rota to be available in the yard at social times to offer support where needed. Their trainers were very impressed with their maturity and resilience with the discussions and activities. We will shortly be purchasing jackets for them to wear when on duty, and plan to do the same for our Mini Leaders and Bronze Ambassadors, so that they can all be easily identified!

After School Sessions for Y6

The staff have really enjoyed spending extra time with your children and the sessions have been a lot of fun, with pupils working really hard and bringing lots of ideas of areas in Maths they would like to cover. We will be continuing next half term as before and, as always, welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Finally, can I wish you and your family a relaxing half term break, and we look forward to seeing the children back with us on Monday 26th February.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corinne Thornton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Corinne Thornton
Headteacher