

Hello everyone!

I have heard so much on the television, on the radio, from other headteachers, from other schools, from friends etc... about the negative impact the virus has had on the mental health and well-being of children. How lovely it has been, to see how little our children have been affected by Covid-19. They have continued to come into school full of energy and smiling, they very quickly were settled back into the classroom routine, focusing and concentrating on their learning, and they have enjoyed being back with friends. It makes me feel very proud of them, of the teaching staff and of you the parents, that our children have come through these awful 10 months so unscathed.

As a staff we have felt so removed from you all; wearing masks, keeping our distance, not having all the events we would usually have when you are invited into the school to see it at 'work'. I think there will be little change until at least Easter; it is such a shame that parents and carers who have been new to the school in the last ten months, have not had the opportunity to enjoy the range of events we would normally hold.

School life has continued as it always will when you are surrounded by little people, albeit a little different to the norm.

This week, the local authority carried out an audit of the school. The focus was on how well the children learn, the mental health and well-being of staff and children, how we are implementing 'catch up' programmes to support those children whose learning was affected due to lock down, the effectiveness of the curriculum, the safeguarding procedures in place and the financial stability of the school. We were all thrilled to achieve the highest level and we were particularly congratulated for the care we show our children.

I have huge 'thank yous' to say, you raised £691.65 for Children in Need and £265.77 for Remembrance Day (poppies). We did not expect to raise so much this year and we all know how desperately it is needed this year in particular.

This year, we have scaled down the sing-a-longs and Nativity production that nursery, reception, year 1 and year 2 have traditionally performed. They will be available to see on the school website at the end of next week.

It has been very difficult to organise festive events for the children, when social distancing, bubbles etc... need to be adhered to. However, the children will be enjoying a streamed pantomime on Wednesday in their classrooms, produced by the Norfolk Music Hub and accessible to schools and care homes for free. On Thursday they will enjoy a festive cookie at break time. Those children who have booked a hot meal will enjoy a special dessert; please send them in with a cracker to pull with a friend. If your child brings a packed lunch to school, please make it as festive as possible.

There has been discussion about schools having the option of having an inset day on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. We will not be doing this as we feel that it is too short notice for working parents. Also, we have planned a special surprise for the children which they would miss out on and I am not even going to tell you what it is!

All year groups (reception and years 1 – 6) will leave school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December via the 3G pitch double gates. The children will finish the day by singing two Christmas songs. Please make sure you are waiting to collect by 3.20pm at the latest to enjoy their singing and good wishes. Nursery children will be collected as usual.

Please remember the children do not return to school until Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January **2021**!

And so it leaves me to say, I wish you all a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year!

Please do take care and keep yourselves safe.

*Pippa*

# Dates for Diaries

16 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime Day
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Break up for Christmas Holidays
4 <sup>th</sup> January	Inset day (no children in school)
5 <sup>th</sup> January	Children return to school
7 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 3 River Topic Walk
15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term
29 <sup>th</sup> March – 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holidays
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Bank Holiday
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Individual School Photos
31 <sup>st</sup> May – 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Half Term
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Class School Photos
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Break up for summer holidays