



Dear Parents/ Carers,

The end of the first half-term and the nights are beginning to draw in. Some of you may have noticed I have not been welcoming you and the children in the morning or seeing the children off at the end of the day. Last week I had quite a major operation on my foot, which has resulted in me having to sit with my foot up for at least two weeks; I am finding this particularly challenging! I am in constant email and telephone conversation with the team and know the school is continuing to function effectively with the children still happy, perhaps a little too much! They say no-one is indispensable! I thought I would catch up before we take a break for a week (excluding Holiday Club) and share some of the activities the children have been enjoying.

Nursery & Reception

At last we have our playground markings in our outdoor area. These were due to happen during the summer holidays but due to the poor weather could not be painted at that time. The children particularly love the road track and use it in many imaginative ways including as a running track. Supporting their topic work, we greeted approximately 80 little pirates last week and there were lots of 'ooohs ahhs' to be heard. Early Years is such a busy part of our school.

Key Stage 1

Year 1 children made a trip to meet Mr Wiggle and Mr Waggle, supporting their English work. There was much excitement when they met the two main characters of their story telling on the bridge in the middle of the development.

With the cookers at last being fitted in our food technology room, it enabled Year 2 children to make gingerbread men to launch their new story telling unit in English. I am sure eating the biscuits was by far the best bit of the activity!

Key Stage 2

Dragons were videoed flying over our school by the children in year 3 and 4 and eggs were found in the grounds, raising the children's curiosity whether they do or don't exist.

In year 5 they have been delving into History finding out about the Greeks.

Choir

Mrs Verwey was very proud of our choir who entertained the residents at the new care home, Lakeview. The children will continue to entertain the OAPs at key times through the year and invitations have been sent for the residents to come along and enjoy some of the special events that take place at school the next being our Harvest Festival.

The choir is also performing at the opening of the ASDA store in Newton Leys on Monday 23rd October at 9.30am. Please do go along and support them if you are able to.

KS1 and 2

The children have enjoyed assemblies presented by outside agencies. We had a representative from a local mosque discussing aspects of Muslim faith and the NSPCC providing them with information and guidance about how to stay safe. It is important we empower our children to build their knowledge, skills and understanding of the world around them and their independence in keeping alert to dangers and keeping themselves safe. Some of you may have noticed our voting board in the main corridor

when we pose questions to the children and they respond with their views. Many of these questions relate to safeguarding, British values and behaviour. If you have a chance, read some of the children's responses; they can be quite enlightening.

Culture Week

This week the children have been focusing on different cultures around the world and particularly of those in their classroom. Mrs Nye produced a varied menu for the children and I know the staff have also enjoyed some of the different tastes from around the world.

McMillan Coffee morning

A whopping £235.21 was raised at the McMillan coffee morning and so a big thank you to all of you for your generous donations and well done to the school council for organising the event. Our school council is gradually taking on more responsibility in the school, we are very proud of them.

Harvest Festival

Our annual Harvest Festival assembly will take place on Friday 20th October at 2.30pm. Reverend Ben is coming along to talk to the children and we are hoping many of you will also be able to come along and see each of the classes presenting an aspect of Harvest. I am very much hoping to attend. Please send food donations into school before lunchtime on Friday; we have the 'Food Cupboard' speaking at the assembly and collecting the produce afterwards.

Inset Day Monday 30th October

Please do not forget the children return to school on **Tuesday 31st October**. Teachers will be receiving training on our tracking program and specific paperwork, which supports our children with SEND.

Learn-alongside week

A gentle reminder that learn-along-side will take place week commencing 6th November with a focus on maths. A letter with dates and times will be sent home after half term.

Individual photographs

The children will have an opportunity to have their photograph taken on Wednesday 8th November. Please ensure your child is **wearing winter uniform** on that day. A letter will be sent home after the half term with more details.

I look forward to seeing you soon, probably still bandaged but hopefully standing on two feet!

Warm regards,

Pippa Villa

Dates for Diaries

September 20th Harvest Festival 2.30pm

Autumn Term Half Term October 23rd – 30th incl Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)

October 31st Children return

November 7th Learn Alongside (Maths) 8.45 – 9.45am

November 8th Individual Photographs (winter uniform)

November 9th Learn Alongside (Maths) 8.45 – 9.45am

November 15th Book Fayre (1 week)

November 17th Children in Need

November 29th Open Morning 9 – 10.30am
Year 5 assembly to parents 2.30pm

December 5th Christmas Craft afternoon for Early Years 2-3pm

December 8th Parent Panel Meeting 8.45am
Carol singing at Milton Keynes Centre 4pm

December 12th Evening Christmas Production 6pm

December 13th Afternoon Christmas Production 2.30pm

December 15th Carol Concert 2pm

Christmas Holidays December 18th – January 2nd 2018 incl Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)

January 3rd 2018 Start of spring term 2017-2018 children return

Spring Term Half-Term February 12th – 16th incl Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)

February 19th Children return

Easter Holiday March 26th – April 6th incl Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)

April 9th 2017 Start of summer term 2017-2018 children return

Summer Term Half-Term May 28th – June 4th incl Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)

June 5th Children return

July 23rd Start of summer holidays Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)