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Monday 25th February 2019

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope that you had an enjoyable half term: it was certainly nice to see the sunshine over the last few days.

Attendance

There have been a number of attendance winners to celebrate since the last newsletter: The most recent winners were Year 5 with 96.3% for the last week before half term.

This previous week's attendance winners were Year 2 with 99% attendance.

The winners of our attendance award for January were Year 2 with a very impressive 95% attendance. Mrs Dunton will notify Year 2 as to the date of their non-uniform day.

Our whole school attendance is slowly improving and is currently at 93%. Our goal is 97% so we still have a long way to go to meet this. It is important that all children attend school regularly and are on time.

Term time holidays

The number of children absent during term time is significant and has a severe impact on our attendance figures. Long term absence can have a detrimental impact on children's learning and progress. In light of this,



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the Governing Body have agreed, with effect from January 2019, to the Local Authority imposing fines for holiday absences. The fines are £60 per parent per child, rising to £120 if fines are not paid within 28 days.

Keeping Safe Week

Recently we held a Keeping Safe week in school, to coincide with the National Online Safety day. Pupils have discussed different ways to keep safe: online, in school, in public and at home during lessons and as part of our assemblies. Children have considered how keeping safe fits in with our school values, as shown below, and why it is important that we feel safe.

- Respect : being able to share your thoughts and ideas; being able to be yourself; have your own beliefs
- Integrity : Telling the truth about things that have happened
- Nurture : Being kind to others; looking after each other; Helping each other
- Aspire: When you feel safe, you can try your best and make mistakes!

Please spend some time discuss what has been learnt with your child.

Bullying Definition

As part of Keeping Safe week we have been discussing bullying and creating a shared definition of bullying within school. In line with the Anti Bullying Alliance, we define bullying as bullying as **‘the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face to face or online.’** It is important that we have a shared understanding of what constitutes bullying so that we can identify incidents of bullying and deal with them appropriately. It is also important that we support children in dealing with the usual childhood arguments and disagreements appropriately and that they are able to identify the difference.



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World Book Day

Next Thursday, 7th March, is World Book Day. To mark this event, all children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character and bring a suggested donation of £1. Throughout the week, there will be a range of book themed activities across the school for children to enjoy.

I look forward to another busy half term with lots of exciting events coming up.

Yours sincerely,

Julie-Ann Swaysland

Headteacher



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