



7th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

School has been very noisy today with lots of children in costume and very excited. The children have swapped classes and read with different year groups and every time Mrs James rings her bell in the corridor everyone 'drops everything and reads' for a few minutes- slightly chaotic but great fun!

This is a brief update on a few things happening in school. Many thanks for supporting our drive with uniform-the children are looking smarter which has a direct impact on behaviour around school. Please remember children should leave PE kits in school so that they don't have to remember them each lesson.

Online Safety

We are now working with a company called 'Smoothwall' to track online concerns. If a child (or adult) searches for inappropriate material I receive an alert about who is logged on and what they searched for. Similarly, if children type offensive words, or even parts of words, on any school computer I get an alert which tells me, who, screenshots of what they typed and what time. This is also installed on the school devices that we have loaned to families for completing homework or schoolwork at home. Children will be spoken to about minor incidents, but if they recur or are significant, we will be in touch to let you know. We have already had one alert about a child using offensive language in the evening on a school Chromebook-please monitor your child's internet use regularly.

Support us with tackling inappropriate language

Some of our children, particularly some children in years 5 and 6, are swearing and using offensive language on the playground at lunchtimes. This week we have started recording when an adult hears a child swearing on pink cards. At the end of lunchtime any children on pink cards have a template email sent home to you so that you are aware. The email will say:

This email has been sent to inform you that your child has been heard using inappropriate language on the playground today. Please speak to them about this at home so that we can work together to ensure the playground is a happy place for everyone.

Governor Visit

One of our school Governors came to visit us a couple of weeks ago. He spent time talking to a group of pupils and also spent time in lessons. He reported that he was very impressed with the children's behaviour and their commitment to learning as well as the way teachers adapt work for children and the quality of learning taking place.

Department for Education-attendance focus

You may be aware that the department for Education are working with schools to improve attendance. One of their changes is to increase the fine for term time unauthorised absence/holidays to £80 per child per parent. This change takes place in September. Schools are going to be under much greater scrutiny in terms of recording and challenging pupils' absence. The changes do not start until September and I will be in touch with more information before then.

What's been happening in school?

- The netball team started practising this week for 10 weeks after school
- The football team have gone to play their first away match this afternoon
- Ramadan starts next week-if your child (in years 5/6) wants to fast please complete the form sent home
- Eat Them to Defeat Them- ITV's push to get children to make healthier food choices is well underway- the children are trying different vegetables- apparently, they liked courgette this week
- The bookfair was well attended and the Year 6 pupils who ran it did a great job
- New lunchtime leaders have been trained up to support younger children on the playground
- Year 4 had a great trip to a Synagogue which the children found really interesting
- We are working with [Riverhawks FC](#) to set up a girls' football project which we are launching tomorrow-International Women's Day.
- The young scholars attended their graduation for their university project during half term. We got very wet but it was a worthwhile and memorable day-congratulations to them on their success
- The young carers and Performing Arts group were invited to a special performance of Peter and the Wolf at Bancrofts school this afternoon. It was a great event and we really enjoyed it.

Spring Term ends on Thursday 28th March at 2pm.

Summer term begins Monday 15th April

Other dates:

School closed for polling 2nd May (preschool, 5H and Year 6 will attend as normal)

11th March Y6 Junior Citizens trip

27th March Year 3 Holi Assembly (details to follow)