



Dear Parents/Carers,

We've had a busy term and have enjoyed several fun activities over the last few weeks including "Children In Need" day, where we raised £84.72 and "Christmas Jumper and Lunch Day" last week, enjoyed by all and everyone looked fantastic in their festive Christmas jumpers.

The children were surprised today with a special visitor delivering Christmas gifts. Following strict Covid protocols, each class were visited and every child received a lovely gift. Please rest assured that we have kept gifts safe for any child that wasn't here today, and will make sure that they receive this when they return.

Thank you to those parents who have already signed up for Class Dojo. We are very excited about using this new communication tool in the new year, if you haven't signed up yet, or would like more information about the platform, please do let us know.

In terms of teaching and learning, and developing our curriculum, this past few weeks we've had a maths teaching expert who we have commissioned to work with our teaching teams over the coming months to really help us develop and implement some stronger maths strategies across the whole school. There have been lots of other activities going on behind the scenes and I look forward to sharing more of these as they start coming to fruition in the months ahead: a quick overview includes redesigning and improving our timetabling, developing our careers strategy and looking at our physical estate.

We've also just heard that we'll soon have another delivery of laptops that have been kindly donated to the school by Deloitte. We had some delivered earlier in the year and once we have details of the next delivery we can let you know how these will be distributed. For those who did not previously benefit from a laptop we'll be in contact in the New Year about how to apply.

Sadly, we have three members of staff leaving us this Christmas. Miss Youngman, Miss Humphreys and Miss Lopes Pondes who are all leaving for new adventures. They have all been with us for some time and we would like to thank them for all their hard work and dedication over the years and wish them all the very best in their new ventures. They will be missed but we're also excited about our new colleagues who are already making a positive contribution and developing relationships across the school!

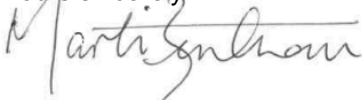
We have been working hard to secure replacement staff and will update parents as soon as we are able to. In the meantime, we have secured some long-term supply staff who will help to guide children through this period of change. Miss Morris will take over Miss Humphreys' class and Mrs Weightman will take over Miss Youngman's.

A quick reminder also, for parents with children in year 7 and above, to provide us with consent to perform a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) on their child when we first return in the New Year as directed by the DfE. A letter regarding this was sent earlier this week, but please do let us know if you have any questions about this.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for welcoming me into your school. I have really enjoyed my first few weeks here, getting to know you and your children and I hope to meet more of you in the New Year. Some of us had the chance to meet earlier on in November and we agreed to make a date for a follow up meeting in January so when we get back after Christmas we'll schedule another date.

May I wish you and your families a peaceful, healthy and happy break and we look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year, on Wednesday 5th January.

Yours sincerely



Mr Martin Bentham
Interim Principal