

11th November 2021

Dear Parents,

The children are now settled back into their learning following the half term break. I do hope you were able to spend some time with your children, and enjoyed the Hallowe'en celebrations, and then fireworks last weekend. It was lovely to welcome Y4 parents last Friday to hear all about the children's visit to Woodrow. Later this term we will welcome Y2 parents on 3rd December to a Nativity performance, and then Y6 parents on 10th December to enjoy a pantomime. I have no doubt that Christmas will be upon us far too quickly!

Thank you to all those parents and members of the village community who were able to join the children in our commemoration of Remembrance Day this morning. It was wonderful to see so many of you. Last year we were socially distanced on the playground with just the children; and it was so moving to be able to return to the green this year to remember the sacrifice so many have paid, not only in the World Wars but also in support of peace and security around the world since. We hope you found it a fitting tribute.

I would like to thank the PTA for organising Christmas Cards and tea towels, for which I understand a large number of orders were received. It is so nice to be able to restart events which we were not able to offer during the worst of the pandemic period last year. I noted that the uniform shop was well attended, and I know the PTA plan to offer this termly so that items of uniform can be purchased then. The PTA have had such a positive start to fund raising this academic year; and I know the children will be looking forward to the discos towards the end of term!

Sadly I have to again mention parking near to the school. We have received a number of messages from our neighbours regarding this matter. Please can all parents make every effort to use the park and walk from either the village hall or the recreation ground. I do understand that some parents do need to drive their children to school as you live outside of the village, but the traffic near to the school – and the poor parking by some – causes risk to those children who are walking. In addition, we all need to show consideration to our neighbours. Parking blocking drives or on the verges is neither appropriate nor considerate. If the situation does not improve we will again invite the local Police to monitor the situation so that all children can walk safely to school.

Please may I remind all parents of the current situation around pick-up. As the school is no longer part of Track and Trace, we do not need to know who the children are seeing after school. If your child, from Y2 upwards, is going home with a friend, your child should know who they are to go home with and therefore we do not need to know. Should there be an emergency and you need to ask a friend to collect your child for you, then do let us know as your child will not be aware. Could parents of children in YR and Y1 please continue to let us know if there is a change to the usual arrangements, as our youngest children may not remember.

We have noticed that there has been a worrying rise in the number of children who are out of school for various appointments during the school day. Whilst we recognise that at times you may have an emergency, or no choice, please could routine appointments, eg dental check-ups, be arranged for outside of learning hours. It is very disruptive for the children to miss key areas of their learning.

Finally, Saturday is World Kindness Day – we hope that the children will do something to show kindness on this day. We use the Kindness calendar in school to help promote respect and care for all. If you are interested to have one at home, these can be downloaded from <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendars>.

Mrs K. Tamlyn

Head Teacher