21st October 2021

Dear Parents,

 It does seem slightly surreal that we are at the half term break already – the past weeks have simply flown by. The children have settled into life post pandemic restrictions and have really enjoyed the range of learning experiences we are now able to offer them. It has been a real pleasure to see their excitement and level of engagement. I am looking forward to Y3 leading our celebration of harvest tomorrow afternoon, and hope that many of Y3 parents will be able to join us for the occasion (and to see their children centre stage!). The children have been working hard on this, and the celebration will start at 2:30pm.

 This week Y6 have visited Waddesdon Manor to help with bulb planting; and Y4 have had two amazing days at Woodrow High House. I am looking forward to their presentation to the school and their parents on Friday 5th November. May I also mention at this point that, as a school, we are planning to commemorate Remembrance Day on the village green again this year. This will be a short time starting at 10:55am. We would be delighted if parents, and members of the village community, who are able to, join us as in pre-pandemic years.

 Please may I remind parents of children in Y6 who have returned their consent forms, that the children will be participating in Bikeabillity sessions on Monday 1st November to Thursday 4th November. They must remember their helmet as well as their bike. Y6 bikes should be stored in the gazebo as there is limited space in the cycle shelter

I am sure that you are aware that the Government over recent years have clearly set out very high standards for the children to understand Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. I do remember during the time of home learning this was an area in which many parents had questions as aspects of this we were not taught at school! Mrs Rushton has spent a considerable amount of time drawing together a reference guide which we hope will be helpful to you all. It is attached to the newsletter and will be added to the website in due course.

As the clocks go back at the end of half term, and the darker winter mornings and evenings are creeping up, I would like to share with you some resources you may wish to look at if you have time to help ensure that your children stay safe: Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents [https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf](http://email.kjbm.safeguardinginschools.co.uk/c/eJxNUMtuwyAQ_Br7UoEA4wYfOCRKIvXcD4jWsI6JHyDAifL3xVUPlVbamd1ZzWhxATff8jugvuzwFD1YAynX-LtxVgsulfhUjPF61IiFMdlJYTrGOWLfNcK2Bi0eRMdkPesx55Cq5liJa6nX60WjTwGo8UvhC1oHpVtvtgXXnArePUmCAfO7sIxgRrfeyb8xAXLfnEUy-EgCxP2QBjv8pbQ4uyfG9x5XNqxhikvW1U4LJjhnXLGWc6Eop-fj9SRkc2rY8aK44pVk06Nf6G5z3yDaYuzWZEbv51Qi022qox4RbFGaEe0uyH6l_WamRItwV2T97TJ-fJ0r0ZR3HVrOVCtqCOG2woJ6ggf0jqTsIw7Rl_AkRG83k51fa6utbLue_QAf5oIL)

 Children’s mental well-being is very much a priority for us all at present. Place2Be, a mental health charity have some resources for parents which can be found at the following web address: [https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/](http://email.kjbm.safeguardinginschools.co.uk/c/eJwtkMGKwyAURb8mboaKGtMxCxcpbWHW8wHlqS-NTaJBzUD_fsww8BYX7oHDfbiCXx7lvaG-HfGSIjgLuRD8a7zTgkslzooxTibtQLozCqtMy0dzBhiVlT10vRmlYf1IFj2VsuWmHRpxr7dBwlB8eOYVUqHbAhaFQRrTk-5zBf5FDhf_g-l9GGXLWqa4ZD3xWjDBOeOKdZwLRTm9DveLkO2lZcNNccUbyeaXWWmGEZ87JFdlPmQ7xbhkamPVkKQnBFdJO6E7gBIDNbudM63gQRT97Qt-fF0b0dbFnx1nqhMEtu0RYEU9wwuMP-USE44phpJPW4put8XHQJx2sv6A_QIM9W0C) These resources address a number of areas such as sleep and sibling rivalry, which you may find interesting to look at to help your child.

I have been asked to share with you the message below from Buckinghamshire Council regarding the Bank Holidays in 2022. Our already published term dates include this change as we were notified in advance.

‘To mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee next year, the Spring Bank Holiday in 2022 will be moved to Thursday 2 June and an additional bank holiday on Friday 3 June will see a four-day weekend to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.  These days fall in the Summer half term and the DfE would like to ensure all school staff have an extra day of celebration too.

 In order to accommodate this the DfE have reduced the number of school days in the academic year of 2021-22.  Buckinghamshire Council have advised all schools that this extra day will be taken on Thursday 21st July, ending the Summer term a day early.  By doing this we believe there will be less disruption to schools, children, parents and transport.’

Buckinghamshire Council Helping Hand service will be providing support to Buckinghamshire families this October half term to ensure those in need are able to get food on the table and receive other essential support required.  In addition, they are working with local Voluntary Community Social Enterprise organisations, which includes food banks, community fridges and hot meal initiatives, to ensure there is a breadth of services available.  Residents can also visit <https://directory.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/> to find out what is available in their local area.  They strongly encourage families in Buckinghamshire to seek support by contacting the Helping Hand team on 01296 531151.

Thank you to everyone who donated to and supported the Spooky Cake Sale run by the PTA on Wednesday after school. (There are also some cakes for sale this evening!) I am sure that all the children enjoyed the early Hallowe’en treats; and I am looking forward to admiring their outfits and accessories tomorrow. Our PTA have been working very hard on new events for this year, after having been unable to fund-raise during the pandemic restrictions period. They have registered us with Amazon Smile, so if you are ordering from Amazon you are able to nominate the PTA as your chosen charity. Given the amount we all use Amazon, I am sure every little donation Amazon make to us will soon add up!

This year with the cooperation and help of the teachers every child has drawn their self-portrait and our PTA have coordinated a fantastic tea towel design. This special keepsake would also make an ideal gift for family and friends. Please see attached to the newsletter a picture of the tea towel design, and an order form. The deadline for tea towel orders is Monday 8th November at the latest.

On Monday 1st November your child will bring home a Christmas Card which they have designed and an order form. The design can also be printed onto tags, mugs and other gift ideas. Orders form must be returned to the PTA by Monday 8th November.

The PTA have organised other events for later in the term – more news soon. I would like to thank them for all their hard work, and to support them by requesting that their deadlines are met. Should your orders not be with them on 8th then the PTA will be unable to fulfil your requests.

As you know we keep our pandemic restrictions under review, and have noted comments from parents. From 1st November, those parents who prefer to escort their children onto the playground in the morning will be able to leave by the back gate as well as the front. The one-way entry via the back gate for the children will remain as it is safer for them to wait on the drive at the back of the school than to be crowded at the front gate. We hope this change for parents will help you to feel less stressed in the mornings.

I do hope that you will all be able to enjoy some time with your children next week. We look forward to welcoming them back on Monday 1st November.

Mrs K. Tamlyn

Head Teacher