



11th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The time is flying past so quickly – there is only one week left until the half-term holidays! Hopefully you all have some good ideas of how to enjoy your week of family time together.

Mental Health Week

This week, all our children have spent some time learning about how to look after themselves and improve their emotional resilience. The theme of the week has been 'Growing Together.' <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/> Please ask your children to tell you about what they have been doing this week.

Internet Safer Day

On the 8th February 2022 we came together as a school and all the pupils worked on tasks relating to safer internet day – the theme of which was 'Together as a safer Internet.' <https://www.saferinternetday.org/en-GB/>

Year 5 and Year 6 Workshop

Both Year 5 and Year 6 classes took part in an 'Anti-bullying workshop' lead by Alan Robson, a highly experienced facilitator. He worked at length with the children to clarify the difference between friendship and bullying issues. He was exceedingly complimentary about all the children's knowledge and behaviour. We were really proud of how sensibly and articulately they can voice their feelings, opinions and recognize the difference between the two.

Retirement and appointment

Many of you will know Mrs Bury, she is one of the longest serving members of staff in school. For a long time, she taught Year 5 and more recently she has been splitting her time between Year 6 and her SENDCo role. She will be leaving school to enjoy a long and happy retirement on Thursday 17th February; governors and staff wish her a fond farewell and we will keep her and her family in our prayers.

It is with great pleasure that Governors and I would like to inform you that Mrs Watanabe has been appointed as the whole school SENDCO. She brings a wealth of experience to the role and we know that all of children and their families will be in safe hands.

Parental Communication

As always, I have an open-door policy to school and I always speak to parents when requested. Sadly, some parents do not contact school to resolve issues, but go directly to speak to other parents outside of school and can on occasion be abusive. On seeking advice from our external safeguarding team about this problem, it is recommended that parents should contact the police if they receive abuse verbally, physically or via social media. It is with real regret that I find myself having to advise this, but staff cannot be brought into the middle of an argument which parents have started or perpetuate outside of school.

Inset Training Day

Friday 18th February – please remember that school is closed to pupils whilst staff are in school attending training.

Half term – dates

School is closed for the week from Monday 21st Feb to Friday 25th Feb.

Advance Notice of World Book Day

World book day is going to be celebrated on 3rd March 2022. This year we have decided our theme will be *'A magical day of books!'* as it is the 25-year anniversary of Harry Potter. There is an amazing wealth of wonderful authors out there who have created fantastic magical characters for our children to enjoy.

We are very aware of the financial cost that the pandemic has had on all of our families so we have decided that this year the children will **NOT BE DRESSING UP**. The focus, in school, will be on the amazing work authors and illustrators do and encouraging our children to enjoy their inspiring books instead.

Cook up your own fairy tales

This term, and in celebration of World Book Day, the British Library is inviting children to **cook up their very own fairy tales** with Michael Rosen, Mara the Storyteller and Allen Fatimaharan. Find tips for creating the perfect story recipe here: <https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/activities/cook-up-your-own-fairy-tale>

We continue to keep all of our families in our thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. D. Thorpe
Head Teacher