**24th September 2021**

**Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,**

It’s been a brilliant week; our children are well and truly settled back into routines and all staff are delighted with the attitude, positivity and resilience displayed by them all. This week has been the first full week for our Reception children and they too have had a great one. They joined our Friday Achievement Assembly this morning and each will come home with a certificate celebrating their first week in school; I know mums and dads will treasure it!

**House Points**

This week’s House Point winners are Tortoises.

**Photos**

Tuesday 28th is individual photo day ~ all children in school uniform please. If your child won house points they should wear their own clothes on Monday or later in the week if Monday is a PE day but not Tuesday. If Tuesday is their PE day they will need to wear school uniform and bring PE kit like olden days. If you have younger siblings at home and would like them to have a family photo the photographer will be in the school hall from 8am.

**Year group meetings**

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the year group meetings this week and feedback has been that parents / carers found them informative. If you have any spare time and would like to join our growing band of volunteers in school, please get in touch.

**Family Learning**

This year’s programme of family learning began today with “Help your child with maths” ~ if you could not make today’s session but are still keen, you can start next week. The course is 9-11am and we offer a free crèche as well as refreshments.

**Macmillan cake sale**

Thank you to everyone who has kindly donated cakes for this afternoon’s Macmillan fundraiser. The hall will be open from 2.15pm this afternoon for you to pop in and enjoy a cake and make a financial donation; please enter through Darwin or Park St gates.

**After school clubs**

I am delighted that our programme of after school clubs will begin next week. As I have already said, experience tells us that having our Reception children join in the Autumn term does not work as they are simply exhausted after a full day at school. We look forward to them joining us for a new round of clubs in January. Clubs will be in the lead teacher’s room and so children should be picked up from whichever is that class’s usual exit door unless it is an outside club in which case meet your child on the field. Do not worry if you’re not certain where the right door is in the first week, we will always keep hold of all children until we pass them over safely.

**Sound System**

Our school sound system has reached the end of its life; thank you to OSCA who have kindly agreed to pay for a new one. This means Mrs Harley’s singing assemblies, dance and music lessons and all manner of other activities can continue successfully.

**Pupil Premium funding**

Thank you to those who have enquired as to whether their child is eligible for free school meals and so ensures school gets additional much needed funding. Please see attached letter if you have not yet done so; we really need this money!

**Mrs Marland**

**Sadly, today is Kate Marland’s last day with us. Kate has been our Pastoral Care Lead / Family Support Worker for a year and tells me she loves it but for family reasons she has had to make the decision to resign. I know many of you and your children have benefited from Kate’s care and expertise and will join me in thanking her for all she has done. I hope to appoint a successor as soon as possible but in the meantime I am delighted to let you know that Jean Dobson has kindly stepped back in to support us two days per week.**

As always thank you all for your support

Adam Croft