11 February 2019

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

**Attendance / Lateness**

Last week we had the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) in school for our half termly register check. Thanks to your support our whole school attendance percentages have been really good for about two years and we were again commended on this; overall attendance for the Autumn term was 96.6% which is superb, especially at times when many can suffer seasonal illnesses.

The EWO’s findings and recommendations on overall punctuality were less positive! Whilst a vast majority of children are on time our data is not as good as it should be; I believe this is “skewed” by particular circumstances.

As you know teachers collect children at 8.50am from the playground, they then enter school, go to the cloakroom and then to class where the register is taken electronically with the official registration period being 8.50am - 9.00am, after which pupils are marked late. However, we have a significant number of children coming into school through the front entrance **before 9.00am**, office staff have these sign in so that we know who is in the building but this means they are viewed as late when in actual fact they are not.

Ideally we want everyone to be ready to enter school with their teacher at 8.50am as even during registration period children begin their “work.”  Just because you think you may miss the line being collected does not mean you have to come in through the front door, this is for genuine lates after 9.00am. From tomorrow all external doors will have a member of staff on them until 9.00am so that children can enter this way; I understand some of you would rather come through the front entrance before 9.00am as you do not want to walk around the building to the classes on the main playground but this is not appropriate. The entrance gets very congested in the morning when in reality only parents and visitors wishing to speak to office staff should be there. Please support us with this and I will make sure staff do their bit by being outside promptly at 8.50am.

**Exciting things this week**

         The Young Voices choir are at the Manchester Arena this afternoon and tonight for the annual concert. I know our children and accompanying staff are very excited by this and look forward to hearing all about it tomorrow.

         The Reception children are visiting Bunbury Mill this week; first hand experiences are superb and once again I know our children are very excited.

         Heartsmart ~ On Wednesday afternoon all classes will do some learning as part of our participation in the Heartsmart initiative; ask them about it!

         Y3 are looking forward to going to Weaver Hall on Thursday as part of their topic work.

         Hockey ~ On Thursday afternoon some Y5 & 6 children are in the final of the Vale Royal Quicksticks Hockey competition; well done on getting this far and good luck!

         Valentine’s Disco is on Thursday, tickets available after school.

         On Friday it is the turn of Mrs Mowat’s Y5 to lead our Achievement assembly, friends and family welcome in the hall and then in class afterwards until break.

We then break up for the half term holiday on Friday returning on Monday 25 February.

Thank you for your support, incredible though it seems, Friday sees us half way through the school year!

Yours sincerely

Adam Croft