15 February 2022

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

A long and at times challenging half term has reached its final week and I know that children and staff are looking forward to a well deserved break.

**Brief update on recent school events**

         As we speak some Y6 children are taking part in a Hockey tournament at Hartford Church of England High School.

         The Y4 residential to Burwardsley Outdoor Education Centre was a tremendous success with children and staff thoroughly enjoying two days of fresh air, forests and mud as well as team building, candle making and ice cream. It was a pleasure to spend time with you all!

         Last week all classes took part in a range of activities as part of Internet Safety Day; although it should be noted that telling our children how to stay safe online is not something we only do on this day! Despite the work we do on a ongoing basis and, I hope, the conversations you have at home, a significant number of our older children said that they often talk to strangers online and that the adults they live with are not aware of this and do not check or monitor what they do on their phones or other devices. This is obviously worrying and I have booked a day with our Police Youth Engagement Officer for early March where she will work with all year groups on all manner of safety issues including reinforcing the importance of keeping safe online. There is information on our website for any parents / carers who would like to know more about how to keep their children safe online.

         Staff from Network Rail came to school yesterday and delivered age appropriate safety presentations to all children who were fully engaged and understanding.

         Our Reception children are looking forward to their trip to Bunbury Mill tomorrow and Thursday; I know they’ll have a great time.

**Disco**

On Thursday there’s a great opportunity for our children to break up in style with our OSCA disco.

**Charities**

One of our families has approached me to see if we can support them in providing Easter eggs to children at Alder Hey. If you are picking up any eggs in the next couple of weeks please consider buying one or two eggstra (!) and putting them to one side in readiness to have collected from school as we approach Easter; more details in the attachment.

Well done to everyone in our school community for the magnificent totals of £1,693.04 collected when we did the Elf run before Christmas and £225.70 which was raised during last week’s Express Yourself day which will go the Place2Be charity.

**School governors**

Some of you will have seen a piece on the school’s and other local Facebook sites advertising a vacancy on our school Governing Body. The position is NOT for a parent representative but this does not mean it cannot go to a parent / carer if they have the right skills and experience. Please see the attachment for more information for yourself or pass it on to anyone you think may be interested.

**Retirement**

On Friday one of our longest serving members of staff is hanging up her tabard! Val Hitchens, dinner lady, or midday assistant if you prefer, is retiring after many long years at Charles Darwin. Val has been with us since 1989 and has served, supported and assisted thousands of children in her lunchtime career. I am sure parents past and present will join me in thanking Val for all she has done for our school and wishing her the very best of luck for the future. Thank you Val; the place will not be the same without you!

**Half term at activities at CWAC Libraries**

All the events are free and bookable on [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cwaclibraries](file:///C:\Users\sca8752186\AppData\Roaming\Schoolcomms\sca8752186\www.ticketsource.co.uk\cwaclibraries):

* **Emma Beswetherick’s Playdate Adventures** Join author Emma Beswetherick as she leads a workshop on her very own Playdate Adventures series which follow the adventures of three best friends and their cat Thunder on a playdate, where the magic of their imaginations make their pretend adventure come to life. Tuesday 22 February 2.30pm Online, Ages 5 +
* **Capers Story Hunt** Get ready for a virtual entertainment experience like no other as scavenger hunting and storytelling collide in a jam-packed session which is fun for all the family. Let your little one's imaginations run wild as they join storyteller John Kirk for a comical capering adventure, sharing a classic folk tale on the way. Thursday 24 February 2pm online. Ages 3+
* **Dommy B’s Best Adventure Ever** When Dom and his Mum move home, Dom has to go to a new school. Leaving behind friends and familiarity, he arrives ready to share his exciting rhymes about meeting a magical goblin and what happened at the lake when he attempted the greatest bike stunt in the world. How far will Dom go to gain acceptance from the coolest kids in this new school?Creating a whole fantastical world on stage with only his words and imagination, CBeebies *Rhyme Rocket* poet Dommy B explores the challenges and triumphs of making new friends when everything around you is different and strange. Monday 21 February 2.30pm Ellesmere Port Library. Ages 5+

**This is also a good time to mention that it is free for children to join at all libraries, as long as they have permission from a parent or carer.**

Thank you once again for all of your support this half term on behalf of all school staff let me repeat we really appreciate it!

Adam Croft