



## Weekly update 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2024. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and that the start of January is treating you well. It is lovely to have the children back in school, getting stuck into their learning and setting goals for this term.

**Dates for your Diary:** A number of dates, including the March Parents Evenings have been added to the Dates for your Diary for this term so please look through carefully.

**Reap a Harvest and Resilience:** Our focus Habit of Mind for this half term is Resilience which always feels apt in January. We discuss Resilience being about never giving up and having a go, which is such an important habit to develop in life as we work towards achieving our goals. In Collective Worship we have been reflecting on this helpful verse from the Bible, "*Do not become weary in doing good for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*" (Galatians 6:8). For us in school reaping a harvest might be about mastering a new skill, achieving something we have been working at for some time, having really positive friendships, being proud of the progress we make together, having the confidence to do something for the first time. It is very easy to be put off at the first or second hurdle that gets in the way or to give up if we feel it is taking too long, but like the wise men following that star, the long journeys are often the ones that bring the most special rewards; it worth the hard work and patience.

**School dinners:** School Dinners are free for all children in Year R, 1 and 2 and many children really enjoy benefitting from this each day. We would like to encourage as many children in Year R, 1 and 2 to have a **school dinner on Thursday 11th January**. The options are either Roast Chicken and Yorkshire Pudding or Meat-free sausage puff - both very popular choices in our 3 week menu with chocolate orange sponge for pudding. The more children who choose school dinners that day will help with our UFSM funding.

**Snack Bar Money:** Children who enjoy getting a snack from the snack bar at breaktime need no more than £1 at most. Some children are coming to school with £5, £10, £20 notes and the kitchen cannot provide sufficient change for this and it is very unwise for a child to have this amount on them in school as it can so easily get lost. We have also reminded the children that they should keep their money to themselves and not share it with others.

**Nuts and Chocolate Spread:** A reminder that we have a number of children with severe nut allergies within school and therefore products containing nuts should not be brought into school. The overwhelming majority of chocolate spread have hazelnut as a base ingredient so again we ask that



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chocolate spread is avoided in lunch boxes - the risk is just too high. Thank you for your understanding.

**Attendance and Punctuality:** Just a reminder of the great importance of good attendance at school. Children are expected to be in school everyday unless they are too unwell to attend. Coughs, colds, headaches and mild temperatures should not keep children off school. We can always call home if your child is really struggling and doesn't perk up from the initial morning grogginess. 96% and above is considered good attendance. Below that is considered a concern and is likely to be having a significant impact on your child's progress in school. 1 day absent every 5 weeks of school equates to 96%.

**Year R Applications:** The deadline for applications for Year R places in September 2024 is at midnight on Monday 15th January. If you know of a family with a child starting school in September please remind them to apply if they have not already done so.

Prayer:

Dear God,

We pray for those affected by the floods this week across the country and ask that you would look after them and bring them your peace and comfort. May rescue and repair efforts be effective and efficient for those affected.

We pray that every child in our school would develop the habit of resilience in their learning and more widely in life. May we be a school community that keeps going no matter how tricky something is, determined to reach our goals.

Amen

Have a lovely weekend everybody.

Mr Harris

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