



17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a good week. It was lovely to see so many of you on Tuesday for Parents Evening. We appreciate you all taking the time to come in and discuss how your children are getting on.

**Anti-bullying Week:** This week we have been 'Making a Noise about Bullying' as we have discussed and thought deeply about actions we can all take to look after each other and ourselves, knowing there are adults to help and talk to at school and at home if we are worried about a situation. We know that taking effective and lasting action against bullying is a team effort and a committed effort. The definition of bullying according to the Anti-bullying Alliance is *"The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online"*. We aim to intervene early by supporting children in managing conflict and disagreeing well. Our Habits of Mind work on Empathy is also crucial in helping children to look at situations from different points of view. We ask that you speak to us if you have any concerns so that we can work together to get things right for the children.

**PTFA:** Disco and Christmas Fair: Christmas has made its way off the horizon and is coming rapidly into sharper focus. You will have received information this week about the Christmas Lunch and today you will have received info about the PTFA Christmas Fair. We also have our Autumn Term Disco next Friday so it is a busy but fun time for the school. The PTFA are keen for helpers for both the disco (Ideally DBS checked) and the Christmas Fair so please do get in contact with the PTFA if you can offer your helping hands or dancing feet.

**Water Bottles:** In order to encourage and facilitate regular water drinking in class, which is so crucial for concentration and focus in learning, we have supplied each child with a school water bottle that stays in school and children can access readily during lesson time. Children may still bring in their own water bottles for break and lunch etc and they will stay in the children's lockers during lesson time. The aim is to ensure more water drinking and less clanking, spilling and worrying about special bottles going missing.

**Calling all parents of book hoarders:** If your children, like one of mine, have a habit of enthusiastically taking books home from school (Library, Phonics books and Accelerated Reader books) and then hoarding them at home please can we ask you to get them to bring those books in



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so that others can benefit from them too. A good rule is if they have more books than they are able to bring to and from school in their bag everyday, they probably have too many books. Thank you!

**Public Speaking Competition:** The competition starts next week with children who have prepared and practised their speeches having an opportunity to deliver their speeches to the class. We're really looking forward to hearing the children share things that are important to them.

**Big Ambition National Survey:** The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel De Souza has asked all schools to share the following survey with parents with the following message...

*It is vital that all children have their voice heard through this survey because, as Children's Commissioner for England, I have a statutory duty to protect and promote the views and interests of children. The Big Ambition provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell political decision makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. I will be sharing their responses with Government to ensure that children's voices are heard.*

Parents can complete the survey here: [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition).

Children will have a chance to complete the survey in class next week. It is their opportunity to make a noise to those in Government as to their hopes and priorities for the future.

**Dates for your Diary:** Please follow this link to the all important dates for your diary in what is a very busy half term with Christmas taking centre stage in coming weeks as we prepare for celebrating something very important to us as a school: [Qagv3rcTOhllGpgLuw5Jpz\\_roi8-UQP-67qL45jBc/edit](https://www.google.com/calendar?hl=en&ical=Qagv3rcTOhllGpgLuw5Jpz_roi8-UQP-67qL45jBc/edit)

**Prayer:** I will finish with a prayer that you are most welcome to join me in praying as we finish anti-bullying week:

Dear God,

We pray that our school would be a place where kindness conquers, where all children and adults work together with empathy and understanding, patience and forgiveness. Help us to manage conflict effectively and be ready to see things from others' perspectives. May the love of God pervade and shape our school, making it a very special and joyful place to learn and flourish.

Amen

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Harris

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*"Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus with Love, Trust and Forgiveness"*

