



Thought of the Week: "I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles." - Christopher Reeve

## celebrating success

### Attendance

Oak class had the highest attendance last week with 95%. Whole school was 93%. Please don't forget to ring 01670 822326 if your child is going to be late or unable to attend school. Thank you.

### Star of the Week

Star of the Week Certificates were all given to the following children: Grace Challoner, Mae Storey, Liam Stanton, Bethany Carr, Harlee Jobson, Rebecca Hanlon and Jack Stafford. These children all had Star Tea with Mr Sutherland due to their exemplary attitude.

### Head Teacher Awards

The following children were all given a Head Teacher Award Certificate for their outstanding work last week: Jessica Foster, Alix Harnett, Ethan Loy, Adam Lang, Justin Cook, Luke Dawson and Ellie Gee. Well done to all of you and keep up the good work!

### Ice Cream Friday

The following children all had ice cream sundaes at Ice-cream Friday last week: Kaycie Falloon, Caitlyn Charlton, Willow Reay, Jessica Hall, Toni-Lea Hudspith, Kelsie Wakenshaw and Melissa Wilson. These children were rewarded because of their good attitude and their tremendous effort last week.

### Mathletics

Sycamore class had the highest score with 15,879 points. Owen Charlton had the highest score last week with 4,665 points. Well done everyone.

## important information

### Collecting children at the end of the school day - Important

I wish to make it absolutely clear that the safety of your child in our school is of paramount importance to me and to my staff and that, as Head Teacher, it is my ultimate responsibility. This extends to the safe handing over of children to their parent or carer at the end of the school day. As a school staff, we work hard to ensure that we have measures in place to ensure that children are passed safely to the nominated person who is due to collect and these measures work – day after day, week after week for classes all across the school. I have reminded all staff of the need for vigilance at all times at the end of the day to make sure that our standards in this respect remain exemplary.

We make it very clear to the children when they start at our school with regular reminders that they are not allowed to leave the classroom unless told to do so by a member of staff. This means that the member of staff has seen and acknowledged the parent or carer and we can then let the child leave the classroom. After an incident at the end of last week, I have spoken to several parents on the yard and some told me it might be helpful for all parents and carers to be reminded of this so that they can talk to their children at home to reinforce this important point. The more we all work together on matters such as this the safer everyone will feel. It is also helpful, as I have mentioned before, if parents can stand slightly away from the classroom door so that the teacher can clearly see who is waiting and, more importantly, that parents do not try to enter classrooms unless invited to do so by a member of staff. Other things that help us are if parents can ensure that they are at school on time to collect their child. I understand that it's sometimes unavoidable to run a little late, (it has happened to me as a parent collecting my own children), but if you can telephone the office to warn us in advance it means we can ensure we keep your child in the classroom until you arrive. Similarly, if a different person is going to collect your child than is usual, it is helpful if you can let us know in advance.

I wrote in a newsletter last year that dismissing children at the end of the day can be very stressful for adults in school (I remember it very well as a Year 1 teacher myself) and we need to ensure that it is done calmly and methodically. This is particularly the case for younger children. Of course we have children in Years 5 and 6 who, with parental permission, are allowed to walk home on their own. As a school, we still expect them to leave the classroom responsibly and when asked to do so by the member of staff.

Please do not misunderstand my words above – as I said in my opening paragraph, the safe dismissal of your children at the end of the day is my responsibility and not your child's and I have asked every class teacher to review their procedures this week. However, if we can all work together, (teachers, support staff, parents, carers and children) on trying to make the end of the day run as smoothly as possible, our school will remain the safe and happy place it has always been.

May I take this opportunity to thank the parents and carers I have spoken to on the yard for their helpful and constructive comments over the past few days. It was much appreciated. Thank you!

### **Denim for Diabetes – A Reminder**

On Wednesday February 15th 2017 we have some visitors coming to school to talk to the children about Diabetes and some of the issues around it for children and adults in schools. We thought it might be nice to have a "Denim for Diabetes" day on that day so that we can mark the importance of learning more about Diabetes and also raise some much needed funds to help Diabetes UK with their work. The children are welcome to attend school that day wearing an item of denim – perhaps a jacket, shirt or jeans – and bring a £1.00 contribution to help with the fundraising. All contributions raised on the day will go directly to support the work of Diabetes UK. Thank you for your support and continued generosity.

### **Safer Internet Week – week commencing 6th February 2017**

As you know, this week is "Safer Internet Week" with Safer Internet day itself being Tuesday February 7th 2015. We have had lots of activities going on in classrooms and around school, with resources specifically designed to ensure that children are knowledgeable about some of the risks that can be out there on the internet and the best way to deal with them. A booklet entitled "Digital Parenting" has been sent to each household to help support families at home. Further advice about E-Safety can be located on our school website or if you have any doubts or are unsure, please feel free to contact the school office or speak to me individually. Thank you.

### **Parent Governor Vacancies on our Governing Body**

We received 3 nominations for the 2 vacant Parent Governor positions which means that we will be holding an election shortly. I have asked all 3 candidates for a brief personal statement, outlining what they feel they will be able to bring to the role. They are due back to me by this Friday and my aim is to circulate these statements along with the ballot papers to parents next week. Parents will then have 14 days to return their voting slips to school where they will be stored safely until counted and verified and the result announced. Thank you to those candidates who have stepped forward to take on this challenging but ultimately very rewarding role.

### **Mobile Phones in School**

Can I please remind parents, carers and children that you are only allowed to bring a mobile phone into school if you are in Years 5 & 6 and have permission to do so from your parent. It must be switched off and handed in to the Office at the beginning of the school day, to be collected at 3:00pm. This is to help those children who have been given permission to walk home on their own so that they can keep in touch with home if they need to. There is no reason for any other child to have their phone in school. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Half term reminder**

Can I please remind all parents and carers that we break up for half term holiday on **Friday 17th February** at 3pm, returning back to school on **Monday 27th February** at 8:45am. Breakfast club will resume as normal on Monday 27th February.