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Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

### Happy half term holiday!

Dear Parents and Carers

This has been a start to the school year like no other, with all the extra pressures COVID-19 guidelines have placed on school life. The staff and children have coped admirably, although everyone is very tired and in need of their half term break.

Tomorrow we say good bye to Mrs Gwynne, who has worked in our school office for over seven years. We thank her for all her hard work, help and support over the years and wish her every success in her new job. Soon we will be interviewing for her replacement, so hopefully we will have a new person in the office before too long.

#### Parents' Evening

I hope you were able to meet virtually with your child's teacher last week. If you haven't had a conversation with your child's teacher yet, please get in touch so we can make the arrangements.

At the meeting teachers will have shared with you the importance of your continued support for your child's learning at home. Please make reading together at home a priority and help your children with maths work such as Doodle Maths and times-tables revision. Teachers are happy to share additional resources with you – please just ask.

All the children have missed being taught specific key concepts due to lock down and need to catch up with the previous year's work. The majority will do this during lessons this year, however some will need additional teaching time. Therefore, we will be inviting some children to attend additional small group work sessions after school, once or twice a week, or to Booster groups in the mornings. Year 6 have already started to attend morning Booster groups this half term.

#### Photographs

Thank you for your patience with the staggered collection times; the deadline to hand orders to the office was printed incorrectly: it should say Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. If you miss this you can still place an order online.

#### Admissions

Applications to secondary school for our current year 6 must be completed online by 5pm on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020, which is during the half term break. Information can be accessed on the following website.

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/school-admissions/Pages/default.aspx>

On Monday evening we held ambassador guided tours around school for those children who are due to start school in September 2021. We are not able to offer tours during the school day, but if you or you know someone who missed the date there is another opportunity on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (at the end of the training day). A reminder that the closing date for reception applications is 5pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

If you prefer not to visit, there will shortly be a video about the Foundation Stage on the school website.



## Remembrance

This year many remembrance events are not happening, however the British Legion are still selling poppies and other linked merchandise ranging in price from 50p to £3. This year, if the children wish to purchase a poppy they will need to bring in money in a named purse or envelope and give it to their class teacher.

**There will be no poppies or merchandise for sale in the school office.**

## Anti-bullying Week (16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020)

We are looking for more KS2 children to put their names forward to be Anti-bullying Ambassadors (ABAs). This week the teachers have shared with the children what is involved in the role and how they can apply.

To apply: Draw a picture of bullying and explain how you would solve the problem in the picture; or Write a paragraph explaining why you would be an excellent ABA member.

**All entries need to be returned to Miss Devereaux or Miss Curran by Tuesday 3rd November. Remember to put your name and class on.**

Everyone is invited to take part in the events during Anti-bullying week, starting with 'Odd Sock Day' on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November. There will be a competition between all the classes to see whose sock holds the most cash! The money raised will be donated to the National Children's Bureau, who support work with vulnerable children.



## Performances

We are trying to keep the usual fun 'in-school' events for the children as per previous years, especially around Christmas time. We are pleased to be having theatrical performances from M and M Productions as originally planned on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November; however, COVID restrictions mean that we can only have one year group in the hall at a time, and there will be only one actor present. The actor will interact with characters both on and in front of a screen, which will bring the story to life. "The Wizard of Oz" will be restricted to only Y1, Y2 and Y3; with Y4, Y5 and Y6 getting an opportunity to see "Alice in Wonderland" next May. FICPS have very kindly offered to subsidise the cost so we invite you to make a voluntary contribution of only **£3 per child** via your PMX account for what we are sure will be a wonderfully entertaining experience.

The Foundation Stage children will be performing a Nativity this year, but it will be a virtual event. Miss Young is in the process of writing the show so don't worry about costumes until December.

## Friends of Irchester Community Primary School (FICPS)

Although we are unable to hold the Christmas Fair, FICPS are organising other fund raising events this term. One is an old clothes collection, with bag drop off at school during Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Half term may be a good opportunity to sort out your clothes cupboards as we are more likely to be staying at home. Save the Christmas jumper though so your child can wear it to school on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

## Guidance on self-isolation rules

Knowing exactly what the guidelines are regarding self-isolation are confusing; attached to this letter are copies of advice posters which hopefully add clarity. These posters are also displayed in the office window. If you are unsure please telephone 119, the lines are open 7am to 11pm daily.

In order to keep everyone safe it is very important that you let school know immediately if your child, or anyone in your household, is displaying symptoms/having a test.

We also need to know the result of any test taken. **So as soon as you get the result - either phone and leave an answer phone message (option 1) or email [IPSadmin@irchester-school.net](mailto:IPSadmin@irchester-school.net)** This email address will be monitored during half term.

Finally, I want to wish everyone a very happy half term holiday and look forward to meeting all the children back at school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Kind regards  
*Julia Alison (Mrs)*  
Head teacher

