



Head Teacher's Welcome

Happy New Year and welcome back! I do hope that you all had a very enjoyable and peaceful festive holiday.

I guess that Somerset's Christmas holiday dates may not have been to everyone's liking but hopefully you are all feeling rested and refreshed and managed to avoid the flu that seems to be sweeping parts of the country.

Richard Culham

Breakfast and Tea Time Club

In case you are not aware we have had to move these clubs to "new" premises as numbers (particularly with Breakfast club) keep rising. Both clubs are now housed in the "old" Pre-school (the green hut!). All other arrangements remain as they were.

Pupil Census

Next Thursday, 18 January, is an important day for schools across the country as the Pupil Census which is held on that day decides much of our budget allocation for the following financial year.

We have just sent out a letter about extra funding that the school can receive, known as Pupil Premium funding, if you are in receipt of *Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, State Pension Credit or Child Tax Credit* providing you do not also receive Working Tax Credit and have an annual income assessed by the Inland Revenue that does not exceed £16,190. It is important therefore that you let us know of any of the above information so that we can ensure that we get all of our allocated funds.

Universal Free School Meals, for children in KS1, do not come under this category.

Attendance Matters



With so many bugs around at the moment I guess that there will be some children who may not feel up to coming to school so I think that it is extremely impressive that so many children are “fighting” illnesses and are determined to keep their attendance figures high.

At the end of last term we celebrated many, many children’s great attendance in an assembly. Mrs White, who monitors our attendance for me, was able to congratulate and present prizes to the following successful school attenders:-

KS1: **Jasmine Abbott** in 2BP with 100% and **Jack Barclay** in 1JW with over 97%

KS2: **Ada Hooper** in 3 AL with 100% and **Corey Calway** in 4GS with over 97%

Please remember that good attendance at school is essential for academic success and will encourage good work and career prospects.

Medical Appointments:

I know that sometimes we have to accept whatever time is given to us for medical appointments, especially with hospital appointments but could I please ask that routine Dentist, Doctor, Optician etc appointments are made for times after school or in the holidays whenever possible. The office staff have been instructed to ask for evidence of school time appointments as this will help us with attendance monitoring.

E-Safety

At this time of year we plan for our Internet Safety Day. This year it will be held on 5 February. Details will follow but there will be opportunities for you to take part so please put the date in your diaries!

Staff

This term we have welcomed **Mrs Messenger** (4TM) **Mr Reed** (LSA) and **Mr McClelland** (Birchfield too Pre-school Manger) to our team. We have also welcomed back **Mrs Lock** and **Mrs Harpur** following their maternity leave.

I am delighted to be able to inform you that **Mrs Hann** has had her baby, a little boy called William.

Date for your Diary

Mon 5 Feb: E-Safety Day

Mon – Fri

12 – 16 Feb: Half Term

Fri 9 March: School Disco (further details to follow)

Mon 12 to Wed - 14 March:

Parent Consultation Meetings and Book Fair
(further details to follow)

Fri 23 March: INSET Day

Mon 9 April: School re-opens