January 10th 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed the festive break. We are all really happy to see the children back in school and it was especially lovely to see them all enjoying the snow which I had carefully organised for the first day back! I hope it made that first get-up a little easier.

**Homework**

Thank you all for your patience as we read through your responses to our survey on homework and then surveyed the staff and pupils too. Following these surveys, we have now published a new homework policy which we have attached to this email.

Please read it carefully, particularly the sections that pertain to your child’s year group. We hope that both the rationale and the expectations clear. We have tried to take into consideration all views, but there will inevitably be some of you who feel that it is not what you had hoped for. Feel free to speak to me about it if you would like to.

**Mobile phones**

We are finding that we are spending increasing amounts of time on managing friendship issues and incidents of unkindness that are taking place out of school hours and online. These incidents are often on messaging chat groups or on social media, often in accounts that are not designed to be used by children of primary school age. Frequently, the messages are sent very late at night.

Primary school children rarely have the requisite skills or experience to enable them to navigate these online spaces successfully, so if you are allowing them to use them, please can you ensure you monitor it regularly with your child, looking back through chat history and messages/comments. As with adults using social media, we often find that children are comfortable behaving online in a way they would never do in real life. We thank you for your support with this.

For parents who have not yet bought their child a mobile phone or for those of you reconsidering how your child uses their phone, here is the link again to the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

If your child is in Year 4, 5 or 6, the talk below may also be of interest to you.

**Talk from Burford Headteacher on children’s use of mobile phones**

Mr Albrighton, headteacher of Burford School, will be joining our school on **Friday 24th January at 8:45am** to present a short talk to parents of children in Year 4, 5 and 6 about the use of mobile phones by children and young people. Following the presentation, he will then be available to talk to parents and answer any questions you may have about Burford School. Please put the date in your diary.

**After School Clubs**

Clubs all start this week. Sports clubs will dismiss from the gate next to the office, all other clubs will dismiss to the playground. Clubs finish at 4.15pm.

**Donations wanted for FSU!**

Our Reception classes are always on the look out for ways to enhance the role play areas in school, so if you have any suitable toys/play sets/costumes that you are happy to donate to the school, they would be most welcome.

**Toys in School**

Following Christmas, we have seen an increase in children bringing toys into school. Please can you support the school by keeping these items at home. It is very distressing for children if they get lost or broken when they are in school and they can also become a source of distraction or friction which we would like to avoid if possible.

**Dates for the Autumn Term**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Details** | **Who** |
| 20th January | National Childhood Measurement Programme | Reception and Year 6 |
| 20th January | Visit to the Gurdwara | Year 5 |
| 21st January | Visit to the Gurdwara | Year 6 |
| 24th January | Talk by Burford Head – Mr Albrighton | Parents of Year 4,5 & 6 |
| 27th January | U11s Sports hall Athletics | Selected Year 5 & 6 |
| 31st January | Cross Country Finals | Year 3 and 4 winning team from 1st round |
| 5th February | Year 3 Ball Skills | Year 3 |
| 12th February | U11s Tag Rugby Tournament | Selected Year 5 & 6 |
| 13th February | Kilvrough Information Evening, 5.30pm | Parents of Year 6 |
| 17th – 21st February | Half Term Holiday | All |

**Birthday Book Donations**

Happy Birthday to Frank (Oak). Thank you for donating a book to your class. We hope you have a special day! If you would like to donate a book, please collect a donation sticker from the school office.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Katy Gent

Headteacher

Wychwood CE Primary School