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15th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we are approaching the end of this term, I would like to thank you all for your support and commitment to the school and local community. Our work with parents and the community has grown from strength to strength – this year, we have several parents engaging with Eagle Consultancy and South Birmingham College and carrying out their placements with Waverley Primary. It is rewarding to see parents in classrooms, developing their own skills and supporting our children. Our Learning Mentors have worked hard to communicate and make accessible external support for families such as bed poverty and the services of Early Help. We will continue to disseminate such information through coffee mornings and parent meetings.

Can I also say thank you to all parents who make every effort to come into school to support with class assemblies, STAR assemblies and other special events – this further enthuses your children and creates those special memories. I look forward to seeing parents/carers at the forthcoming Seasonal Celebrations afternoon on Monday 18th December 1:30pm-2:55pm.

Thank you for your generosity this term, we managed an impressive Harvest donation for Birmingham City Mission and your compassion was also reflected in the total raised for Children in Need, we raised a total of £196.00 across Primary. We are striving to raise further funds for Save the Children and Akamba Children's Education Fund (ACEF) on 20th December by asking for a donation of £1.00 for Christmas Jumper Day.

Curriculum Enrichment and Experiences

Our pupils have excelled this term. I have been most impressed with our Year 6 Ghost stories where our pupils demonstrated the ability to create mood, suspense and horror- the stories would have you gripped in fear! Our Year 5 pupils have been captivated by 'Survivor Escape from Pompeii' and as a result have written newspaper reports to convey the extreme volcanic eruption. Reception pupils have been immersed by the adventures of Supertato and now able to recall and write events from the story.

As always, we have been very fortunate to have arranged a number of educational visits. Year 6 visited The National Justice Museum in Nottingham. Pupils really enjoyed exploring original courtrooms, dungeons, and prison cells, along with galleries and collections relating to justice, the law, crime and punishment in a fun and interactive way. As part of Design Technology, our Year 1 pupils made a trip to the local Asda to learn all about the origins of food. Pupils were privileged to have received a private tour – including the warehouse and food stores.

This half term, we have had several workshops taking place, we started the half term with the Great Fire of London workshop for Year 2. Pupils were taken into the past to the tragic events of 1666 and through drama empathised with characters and their actions. Safety Seymour allowed for an interactive session on carbon monoxide and the ways to keep safe from smoke. Professor Hugo delivered an engaging science workshop exploring the states of matter, explaining why these changes occur.

Our Primary Newsletter will give you further insight into what our children have been learning.

Primary Attendance & Punctuality

Although, we have not quite met the school target of 97%, attendance figures across Primary are looking better in some year groups. Thank you, for your support with this and ensuring that all pupils are in school every day. Attendance data is shared with pupils on a regular basis, last half term our winning classes 2B and 6A visited Scallywags, Indoor Play Centre as part of a reward. Winning classes for Autumn 2 will visit SnowDome at the start of the New Year. Punctuality across Primary needs to be further improved, we expect all of our pupils to be in and seated by 8:40am. It is for this reason, that our gates open at 8:25am – and remember this is when teaching and learning starts! Any child who is regularly late, misses out on morning focus activities – this is usually basic skills and time to apply or consolidate on reading, handwriting, spelling and Maths.

Pupil Leadership Opportunities

This academic year we have broadened the opportunities for our children to take on leadership roles and responsibilities. Earlier in the year, we established our Play Leaders, Pupil Peer Mediators and Pupil Lunchtime Assistants to enable pupils to take on responsibility, develop maturity and skills that would support them now and later in life. Children in Primary have been busy exercising their right to vote and learning about democracy. This week we have finalised the names of our School Councillors, with each class having chosen someone to represent them. There was much excitement about this opportunity - there were application forms, manifestos, leaflets and speeches. Now that the children have elected their council, we are looking forward to our first meeting!

Rock Kidz on Tour

We are fortunate to have Rock Kidz on Tour in school on the first day back of Spring 1. Our Primary Hall will be transformed into a rock concert venue for the day where pupils will engage in workshops on respect and diversity. Pupils from across the school will learn songs which will then culminate into a whole school rock concert! This will be a non-uniform day and we ask that all pupils (and staff) come to school dressed as rock stars. At the end of the school day, there will be an opportunity for parents to purchase official Rock Kidz merchandise from the Primary Hall.

Key Dates for your Diary:

Friday 22/12/23: End of Autumn Term. School finishes for Primary at 12:45 (Secondary will finish at 12:55)

Monday 08/01/24: Start of Spring 1 Teacher Training Day – School Closed to pupils

Tuesday 09/01/24: All pupils in school

Tuesday 09/01/24: Rock Kidz on Tour -dress like a Rock Star Day!

Tuesday 09/01/24: Heights & Weights for Reception & Year 6

Wednesday 10/01/24: Author Tony Bradman visiting Year 5

Wednesday 10/01/24: Heights & Weights for Reception & Year 6

Wednesday 10/01/24: Year 2 visiting Eco Park

Wednesday 10/01/24: Young Voices performing at Resort World Arena

Thursday 11/01/24: EYFS/KS1 Attendance trip to SnowDome (winning class tbc)

Thursday 11/01/24: Start of Positive PE Dance Club - Years 5 & 6

Friday 12/01/24: KS2 Attendance trip to SnowDome (winning class tbc)

Friday 12/01/24: Kimichi Symphony Orchestra: Screen Magic 7pm-10pm

Monday 15/01/24: Year 3 Roman Workshops

Wednesday 24/01/24: Year 6 visiting Birmingham Hippodrome

Wednesday 31/01/24: EYFS visiting Eco Park

Thursday 01/02/24: Year 5 visiting National Space Centre
Friday 02/02/24: Year 1 visiting National Space Centre
Friday 02/02/24: NSPCC's Number Day and Maths Enterprise Day
Monday 05/02/24: 4B Class Assembly Chinese New Year 8:40-9:00
Tuesday 06/02/24: Year 5 & 6 STAR Assembly 8:40-9:40
Tuesday 06/02/24: Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 07/02/24: Year 3 & 4 STAR Assembly 8:40-9:40
Thursday 08/02/24: Year 1 & 2 STAR Assembly 8:40-9:30
Thursday 08/02/24: E-Praise Milestone Sapphire Tea Party
Thursday 08/02/24: Year 5 visiting Tamworth Castle
Friday 09/02/24: Buddhism Day & Themed Lunch: Nirvana

Friday 09/02/24: End of Spring 1

Monday 19/02/24: Start of Spring 2 - All pupils in school

The end of a year always brings about reflection and a time to think about those who are less fortunate or in need. Can we please take some time out to support those around us, this could simply be a smile, kind gesture or good wishes.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a safe and merry festive period and look forward to welcoming back all our families in January 2024.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Dosanjh
Principal
Waverley School – Primary