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Dear Parents/Carers,

This term has again been busy in school with our topics now well underway. If you look on the website in your child’s class page, you can see what they have been learning this term. One of the ways in which children can help develop their understanding is explaining it to another person. This could be them talking to you about their learning in class today or key facts that they can recall from their topic such as the names of key rivers, a method used in maths, finding a country on a map or giving you some examples of adjectives. Little and often is a great way to help secure that knowledge!

After School Clubs

It has been fantastic to see the children having a fantastic time at the clubs which run after school. To make a smoother system for parents and the office team, the clubs on offer for the summer will run for term 5 through to the end of term 6. If you are interested in a club, please do sign up as these spaces are based on a first come basis. As with all activities, it is important for children to show the standards of behaviour which we would expect in the school day when attending clubs. A letter has come out today with regards to clubs.

School Values and Rules

With the change in Covid restrictions, we are now starting to come together more as a school. Last term, as a school we reviewed our values with a focus on one value each week. I am pleased to see how the children are now more able to explain why these values are important and how we can show them – we know, ‘**Respect runs through the core of all we do.’** We are now working to review our school rules, focusing upon why they are important and how they can help us work together. Our focus for this week is, ‘**Kind words, kind hands, kind feet.’** We will continue to focus upon one rule at a time so that we can share what they mean to us and how we can show them.

Celebrating Successes at Home

We know many of our children attend out of school clubs including sports, drama, community groups such as Scouts and music. If your child achieves success, please do let us know as we would love to celebrate this with them.

Attendance in School

We all know that over the previous years there have been significant periods of time when children have not been able to come into school. It is vitally important that children are in each day so that they can both endeavour to catch up on gaps of learning and secure the new areas that are being covered. I would like to pass on a big thanks to those parents who are working with us to ensure that their children are in school as much as possible. I do appreciate that there are times when children are ill and not able to attend school. These would include the examples below:

* Children have covid symptoms and need to go for a PCR
* Children have an infectious condition such as chicken pox and are awaiting the spots to scab over
* Children have had a bout of diarrhoea or sickness and then need to have 48 hours from that incident

We do appreciate those parents who are ringing to indicate absences on the answer phone however we are unable to process some messages if the information is too vague such as they are unwell / not feeling well. Each term, I have meetings with the EWO (Education Welfare Officer) where we look at pupil attendance and reasons for absence. If a child is repeatedly off with short illnesses, or where the reasons are not clear, it can then be that we have to ask for medical notes or doctor’s appointments for absences to be authorised. If attendance were to drop, it can be that parents are then issued with a fine. I would not like this to be the case for any of our families and so am asking your support.

Please can I ask that:

* Where children are well, they are in school all day, each day – we can not authorise early pick ups
* Children arrive on time – the gates currently open at 8:30 and children should be coming in at this time to join their classes
* Appointments, such as for the optician, should be arranged outside of school hours with medical appointments also ideally taken at this time

Staffing updates

At Easter, Mrs Balan who will be leaving us to go onto maternity leave – this is an exciting time for Mrs Balan and her family and we send on our best wishes. I would like to welcome Mrs Chandler who will then become our Y4 teacher. Mrs Chandler has already been working with the class and in the school. We would like to send on our best wishes to Mrs Wiles who will be moving on to work in the college. Mrs Webster is looking forward to becoming the Honeycrisp class teacher. Mrs Sainsbury is moving on to become a deputy headteacher at a school outside of Swindon. Mrs Hitchcox will be joining us from a local junior school to become our Y3 teacher – Mrs Hitchcox has already been working with the class. I would like to thank those staff who are leaving for their support for our Greenmeadow children and families and wish them all the best in their new adventures. The team joining have spent time with the current staff and getting to know the children and all have exciting plans for the terms ahead.

Reports to Parents

Teachers have been working this term on producing reports for you showing where children are currently working and sharing targets for the terms ahead. These will be coming out before the end of term. By sharing this information with you now, we are wanting to work together to support children to make further development over the year ahead. We know that many of our children are working on catching up missed learning and so teachers are always happy to discuss work in class or strategies used so that you can support at home – please do email class teachers. Great ways to support all children to catch up also include regular reading, learning times tables (this can be through using TTRS), practising handwriting to develop a cursive style and supporting with homework. All children should have homework each week.

What has been happening this term?

This term has been a busy one for us in school. In addition to the work in class, we have continued to run phonic sessions in FS and KS1. Children have been to the Y3/4 tag rugby, Y5/6 tag rugby, children have danced and sung at the Wyvern and Y1/2 have been on a local study walk and to the Living Rainforest. All classes have had an exciting dance workshop where they brought a story or book to life. We know we have more exciting plans for the summer and are looking forward to bringing them to life. These experiences are important to give the breadth of school experience we would like to be able to offer our children. As part of our work on values and rules, we have reiterated to children that when they attend these events they are our ambassadors and so we would want to ensure that they show the standards of behaviour and engagement we would see in school. I would like to pass on my thanks to all staff who have supported in making these events happen.

And finally…

We want to make sure that all the information we are sending you is reaching you. Please can I ask that everyone links a mobile phone to their Parentpay account so that you can receive messages and letters. Additionally, do look at the school Facebook page as we often share events happening locally or useful information.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Mackinnon

Headteacher