Dear Parents and Carers

**Newsletter**

**Cake Sale**

Thank you to everyone that supported yesterday’s Macmillan Coffee Event, it was lovely to see the work that had gone into decorating the hall to make it a special time. I was also pleased to catch-up with a few parents and grandparents too.  We have lots of cakes left-over still. So, the PTA will be selling off these cakes at pick-up this afternoon on the playground.  So far we have raised over £260.00.

**Staffing News**

As communicated with Meerkats and Tigers parents earlier in the week. We have, sadly, lost the services of Mrs Hauser. We have therefore begun our process for recruiting a replacement class teacher (who we hope will start in post after half-term). In the meantime, I am incredibly grateful to our EYFS and KS1 staff for stepping up with a plan to see our children through the interim few weeks in the best possible fashion starting our new arrangements from Monday.

**Coats**

As the weather has now become so much more mixed, could you please ensure your child comes to school with a suitable coat as they still go out at break even if there is light rain.

**Drop-off infrastructure**

Thanks to those of you who completed the parent’s, travel survey last year. As I am sure you will understand, safety improvements take time to gain planning and financial approvals through the Council, but we were pleased with the additional signage and lights that were put up during the Summer holiday.  Further improvements are planned out the front of the school over the October half.

**Power Cut**

My thanks to the staff team for rallying round on Tuesday in dealing with such a lengthy power cut.

I am delighted that they managed to get the children fed albeit not the school dinners that they had all been expecting, as this was suddenly an impossibility. We were very blessed by their ability to produce a huge amount of sandwiches against the clock! Teacher’s planned approaches to lessons were, obviously, affected too as our computer systems and the interactive whiteboards became useless as well. It was great that everybody managed to adapt their lessons so quickly and admirably.

**Emergency Lockdown Procedure**

Our primary aim as a school is the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, to support us in achieving this we have many policies in place, including how we would respond to a potential incident either in the community or directly affecting the school.

One of these policies is our ‘Lockdown’ procedure, the aim of this policy is to support our staff in safeguarding our pupils from a variety of potential hazards that many arise, these include:

1. A reported incident, disturbance in the local community;

2. An intruder on the site;

3. A warning being received regarding a local risk of air pollution (smoke plume, gas cloud etc.);

4. A major fire in the vicinity of the school;

5. The close proximity of a dangerous dog.

Our procedure aims to minimise disruption to the learning environment whilst ensuring the safety of all pupils and staff.

In the event of an emergency that requires the school to be locked down the following actions may be taken, please note this is not an exhaustive list and is being provided as summary only, exact actions will be dependent on the incident:

* Staff will ensure all pupils are inside the school buildings and lock any outside doors and close any windows that may be open;
* If pupils are outside, staff will bring them back into the building;
* Site and office staff will ensure all external doors are secured and closed; no members of the public (including parents/volunteers) would be allowed to access or egress the site;
* Emergency services will be notified;
* There would be no other external communications during the Lockdown Procedure;
* Pupils will not be released from the school until the all clear is given;

In the unlikely event that we have to put this process into action we need to have ensured that parents are aware of the arrangements, as outlined above. Hence including this in today’s newsletter.

**Parental Feedback**

It was really helpful to get a lot of feedback from parents at both last week’s Meet the Headteacher and briefly at yesterday’s Macmillan event too. I thought you would love to know the main themes that came up (both positives and negatives):

**What’s going well?**

·       Friendly, family, welcoming atmosphere

·       Community feel & engagement

·    The staff team – committed, genuine, and caring delivering for our children despite challenges school has faced for two years

·       The teachers’ communications with parents

·       The return of Star of the Week

·       Children feel safe and happy

·       PTA events and just having an active PTA

·       Wrap around care

·       Staff’s ability to make the children feel special

·       Reception staff soooo welcoming

·      The new SENCO

·       Opportunities the children are given, including:

o   Sports Day

o   RWI

o   Young Voices

o   Taskmaster

o   Forest Fridays

o   Sheer variety of trips (inc residential)

o   Variety of clubs

o   Outdoor play provision

**Even better if… (suggestions)**

·       Rather obviously, a substantive headteacher appointed and stays giving more stability

·       Drop-off arrangements

·       Better school dinners

·       Better, open, honest communications

·       Support the staff better – they work hard and don’t get the recognition they deserve

·       Consistent homework setting

·       Advanced publication of as many key dates as possible (preferably in a fridge friendly format)

·       More sport

·       Phonics workshops for parents

**Permission Needed**

If you have not already done so and would like your child’s photo to be in the school calendar, under the month they were born, then please let the office know as soon as possible.  The cut-off date for this is Wednesday 27th, so to avoid disappointment do let us know as soon as possible.

One of our year 5 students is taking on a 30 mile sponsored walk and scooter ride to raise money for our school.  We will shortly be sending home a sponsor form should you feel able to help.

Bake Off Competition

There were some lovely entries and it was incredibly difficult to judge.  The winners were

Penguins - Esme

Kangaroos - Will

Meerkats - George

Tigers - Alfie

The winners of the colouring competition were

Huskies - Alana

Penguins - Ruby

Kangaroos - Martha

Meerkats - William

Tigers - Noah

Mr Bird

**Dates for your diary**

Games Day KS1/KS2             Monday 25th September

Harvest Assembly                  Thursday 12th October

Parents Evening                     Tuesday 17th October @ 3:30 - 6:00pm

Wednesday 18th October @ 3:30 - 6pm

Inset Day                                Friday 20th October

Half Term                                Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October

Spooky Disco                          Friday 3rd November (PTA run - details to follow)

Children in Need                     Wear something spotty and competitions to be confirmed

Open Days for Year R            2024    Tuesday 31st October @ 2pm

Wednesday 1st November @ 10am

Flu Vaccinations                     Wednesday 11th October

Anti-Bullying Week                 Monday 13th - 17th November

School Photos (individual)      Wednesday 15th November

Non-Uniform Day in support   Thursday 23rd November

of the Christmas Fair

Christmas Fair                        Friday 1st December

Christmas Lunch                     Thursday 14th December

Christmas Jumper Day           Thursday 7th December

Nativity                                    Tuesday 12th December @ 2pm

Wednesday 13th December @ 10am and 5pm

Last day                                  Friday 15th December