



**6th January 2017**

**Happy New Year!**

We hope that you all enjoyed a good Christmas break.

In assembly on Thursday, we talked about how a new year is seen by many as a fresh start and chance to change something, take up a challenge or try something new. Children shared the sorts of things they and their families were doing such as taking more exercise, eating more healthily, learning a new skill or being more polite or more helpful etc.

I asked the children if they could come up with a challenge for themselves connected to their school learning which they could practice and master in school and at home by half-term. It may be that they want to learn a certain times table that's been difficult, or some sounds or spellings they always forget to write correctly. Perhaps they haven't been reading as regularly as they should have been at home and haven't been recording in their reading record or they have never completed a chapter book and would like to try one. Maybe they feel their handwriting still needs to join up or they need to write more in a lesson.

Children will be writing their challenge on a leaf to display in the hall and we will review it regularly so that we keep each other motivated. We would appreciate it if you asked your child what they had chosen and encouraged them to achieve it. Staff are also thinking about what they'd like to challenge themselves to do too. Since our new school value for this half-term is perseverance, we thought this would be a fitting, feel-good activity.

**Thank you – whoever you are!**

This Christmas some members of staff received a gift or two which either did not say who it was from or perhaps had lost its tag.

Staff feel awful they can't thank the person personally but would like to thank them nevertheless. If you gave a gift and haven't had a personal thank you, please accept this message as your thanks.

**New Sports Club**

So far 8 children would like to take part in the KS1 Sports Club **starting Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January**. Tim, our coach, is very happy to include a few Reception children in the club so that he has enough numbers to run it since we would have some very disappointed KS1 children if we had to cancel. We are aware that some YR children are still very tired by the end of the day and may find a club too much. However, others may be able to cope with this now so if you think your child may be able to manage and enjoy this, please let us know at the office. There is still room for more KS1 children too.

**Welcome!**

Miss Beth Spaul is our trainee teacher in Emeralds class this half-term whilst on her contrasting school placement. She will work closely with the Emerald team.

### **New Lunchtime Club**

On a Tuesday and Friday lunchtime, Mrs Corney and Mrs Creasey will be running a club for any child who would like to play board games, read books or colour. This is in response to requests from children for an indoor club in the winter months.

### **Tennis Taster & Club**

All children except Reception had a tennis taster session this morning with our coach Ben. The club will begin on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January and is open to Y1-Y6. If your child would like to join please let us know.

### **Earrings**

We have been reviewing our health & safety practices in PE and sports lessons and in order to keep the chance of an earring related incident to a minimum, we would request that children remove their earrings for all their PE and sports lessons, just as they must do for swimming lessons. Most children already do this but some have used tape to cover their studs until now.

If it is impossible for your child to remove them (due to infection, recent piercing or they cannot remove or forgot to remove them on PE day), it is up to the adult teaching the session to decide if it is safe for them to join in all, certain parts or none of the lesson that day. We are sorry but unfortunately we are not allowed to remove earrings for children.

Thank you.

### **New Teacher & TA Email Addresses**

Class newsletters will come out today (Ruby class on Monday) and contain the teachers' and teaching assistants' new email addresses which follow the same format as the head@ and office@ Microsoft 365 emails. The website will be updated so that you can always find them on there too.

### **Bell Group – Clangers**

Thank you to the bell group and to our governor Ms Helen Carlile for all the Christmas clanging and fundraising. It is always so lovely to hear the bells being played.

### **DIARY DATES**

#### **January**

Weds 11<sup>th</sup> – Sapphires start swimming lessons & KS1 Sports Club starts

Tues 17<sup>th</sup> – Tennis Club starts

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> – Reception height & weight monitoring

#### **February**

Tues 7<sup>th</sup> – Safer Internet Day & Y6 children go to LSHS for a languages taster day

Half-term week is Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> 2017

Tues 28<sup>th</sup> – Parent & Carer Consultation evening

Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> - Parent & Carer Consultation evening

#### **March**

Tues 28<sup>th</sup> – Easter service 2pm

Weds 29<sup>th</sup> – Fri 31<sup>st</sup> - Horstead KS2 residential visit

Fri 31<sup>st</sup> – Break up for Easter holiday. FOFS Easter egg trail TBC