



Newsletter 12: Friday 14th January 2022

A message from the Executive Headteacher

Welcome back to a new year and a new term. Christmas now seems a distant memory. Hopefully, the situation we faced before Christmas regarding COVID will continue to improve and there will be less disruption this term.

I would like to take the opportunity to officially welcome Mrs Pike to Nursery and Mrs Carter to the TA team.

At the end of this half term, Mrs Short will be taking up a new position at Wootton Lower School. She has been at Riseley for a number of years but has decided to make a change. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her all the very best in her future career. We have recruited Mrs Hiller from Lavendon Primary School in Buckinghamshire who brings with her a wealth of Key Stage 1 experience. She will take up her position in April 2022 after the Easter holidays.

I am cautiously optimistic to announce that the Winter Fayre, postponed from before Christmas, has been planned for Sunday 6th February 11-2pm. The PTA have a number of events planned for this term. Dates can be found below.

I am pleased to announce that we have been working with a company called Pentagon Play to design improvements to our playground. The designs can be seen overleaf and we hope to have this in place for the second half of the Summer Term.

Have a good weekend.

Mr P

Dates for your diaries

Wednesday 2nd Feb: 2.2.22 Part 1 Day

Friday 4th Feb: Harry Potter Fancy Dress or Mufti Day

Sunday 6th Feb: Winter Fayre

Friday 11th Feb: End of Half Term 1

Monday 21st Feb: Start of Half Term 2

Tuesday 22nd Feb: 22.2.22 Part 2 Day

Tuesday 1st March: Pancake Race Day

Friday 1st April: End of Term

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Attendance

I have now had the opportunity to review the attendance figures from the last term and I am concerned by the number of children who have missed more than 10% of their education this academic year.

Whilst children were marked as an authorised absence for COVID in the previous academic year, this year schools have been instructed to mark them as illness. Clearly this had a dramatic effect on the school's attendance figures and this must be taken into account.

However, there are a significant number of children who have missed at least 10% of their schooling that has not been COVID-related.

Please remember that any holidays taken during term time are unauthorised and that the authority to absence during term time was removed from Headteachers a number of years ago except in exceptional circumstances. Holidays postponed from 2020 or 2021 are not considered exceptional circumstances and are therefore subject to a penalty notice if children have missed 10 sessions (5 days) in a rolling 12 week period.

Parents must inform the school about their child's absence. Failure to do so will result in the absence being recorded as unauthorised.

If a child is late after the registers have closed (9.15am), this is marked as an unauthorised absence. We will continue to inform parents if their child's attendance is a concern and if attendance does not improve, they are subject to a Fixed Penalty Notice which is issued by the Local Authority.

Celebration Assembly (Friday 7th January)

The following awards were celebrated in our Celebration Assembly last week:

Family Points

1st: Ash = 74 points

2nd: Oak = 70 points

3rd: Beech = 67 points

4th: Willow = 60 points

Current Leaders: Ash = 74 points

Stars of the Week

Owls: Ezmay Day

Puffins: Emanuelle Salvino Martinelli

Penguins: Mia Milton

Starlings: Tiger-Lilly Seamark

Parrots: Hugo Coles-Hendry

Flamingos: Emily-May Saxby

Falcons: Sofia Facchiano

Weekly Attendance Winners

Owls: 100%

Termly Attendance Leaders

Penguins: 96.3%

Whole School Attendance = 96.2%

Celebration Assembly (Friday 14th January)

The following awards were celebrated in our Celebration Assembly this week:

Family Points

Joint 1st: Oak & Ash = 154 points

2nd: Beech = 118 points

3rd: Willow = 100 points

Current leaders: Ash = 228 points

Stars of the Week

Owls: George Bates

Puffins: Austin Coles-Hendry

Penguins: Reggie Marotta

Starlings: Ella-Mae Greer

Parrots: Coral Hoyle

Flamingos: Ellie Greensmith

Falcons: Geoffrey Loxley

Weekly Attendance Winners

Puffins and Penguins: 98.3%

Termly Attendance Leaders

Penguins: 96.5%

Whole School Attendance = 96.9%

New playground equipment



As mentioned on the first page, we have been working with Pentagon Play to design ideas for our playground which is currently little more than a tarmac rectangle. The designs are in draft form and to be finalised but I thought parents would like to see what we have planned for later this year,