Friday 2nd November

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the second letter from me this academic year. I hope you’re finding this newsletter a little more informative than my old small box. If you have any suggestions, please let me know when I am on my morning walkaround.

**School Review**

You may have noticed two visitors around before half term on the playground. As a school who is due an OfSTED inspection, Governors and I asked the Local Authority to conduct a 2 day Teaching and Learning Review. This review mirrored an inspection in many ways. The two advisors observed teaching and learning throughout school, met with teachers and subject leaders, spoke at length to me about standards and achievement, scrutinised our safeguarding records and spoke to the children. They also spent some time outside talking to yourselves.

I do not have the report as of yet. However, the review was extremely positive and I thought I would share some of the highlights I was told.

* Senior Leaders know the school extremely well and understand the strengths and areas for development.
* Staff Morale is high.
* Attainment and progress are accelerating and the quality of teaching & learning has improved.
* Subject Leaders use a range of activities to know their subject areas well
* Lots of positive comments from parents about the school and safeguarding is strong. One parent commented ‘This is second safest place to home.’ The school would be recommended by parents.
* The children said that bullying is not an issue and they feel safe. Behaviour is excellent inside school as well as on the playground. Pupils’ conduct, behaviour and attitudes to learning are exemplary.
* The school environment is clean and welcoming. The school celebrates the work and efforts of the children.

Although the two days were exhausting for the school team, it was lovely to be told how well the school is currently performing. I must stress this was not an OfSTED inspection and inspectors may form different opinions when we are inspected.However, I wish to thank the entire team for their efforts not just during the review, but everday, to provide the very best learning experiences for the children and for the parents who spoke so highly of the school. Back to business now!

**Parents Afternoon**

Thank you for attending your important meeting this week with your child’s classteacher. As I passed around the hall, it was great to overhear some lovely conversations about how well the children have settled in their new class, but also importantly, the targets for your child over the coming months. If you could not make your appointment, please rearrange this with your child’s teacher as soon as possible. Thank you.

**FOBS Cake Sale**

Our fantastic FOBS team held their most recent event yesterday – the Cake Sale! This popular event has raised a tremendous £228 which will contribute to the FOBS goal this year of updating the school laptops. Thank you as always to the FOBS team for staging this excellent event and to everyone for supporting it. There is a litter being left afterwards though so if I could ask you to make sure that all rubbish is put in the bin. Thank you.

**Donation**

Our FOBs team have had £100 donated to them by one of our parents. I wish to thank them for their generousity and this money will help our FOBS team on their way to their target!

**Film Festival**

As part of the Film Festival, the whole school will going to the cinema later this month to watch Isle of Dogs. This will be a fantastic event to broaden our children’s understanding of film and appreciation of cinema. It will be a fantastic event and thank you to Miss Willis as our Arts Coordinator for organising.

**Bikeability**

Our Year 6 have completed their 2 day Bikeability course this past month. Year 5 are currently in the middle of their 2 day course. This valuable course teaches the children how to be safe on their bikes in school, but more importantly, out on the roads. It’s really important the children wear bright clothing when out, particularly at this time of the year with the earlier dark nights.

**Crucial Crew**

Year 6 have taken part in the annual Cruical Crew event this past month. Crucial Crew is designed to provide children with life skills that will enable them to keep themselves and others safe. It is generally accepted that children start to become more independent at this age and are often expected to cope increasingly on their own and deal with changes in their lives, such as moving to Secondary school. The aim of our Crucial Crew event is to raise each participant's awareness of threats and dangers, in a fun and interactive way. Thank you to Mrs Thompson and the entire Year 6 team for arranging this trip to support our year 6 children.

**Event Winners!**

Last half term, our children competed with local schools as part of inter school PE competitions. Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 all played a game of Basketball and I am pleased to report that our winning success has continued. Although we have not won every event, our competitors have always shown them to be excellent sportspeople. This half term, we are hosting the the Dodgeball competition so we have a home advantage! I’ll report back to you in the November letter how we are doing!

**Warbutons Bakery**

There was a waft of bread in school earlier this week when Warburtons Bakery dropped in to work with Year 3 as part of their topic. Lots of exciting learning about how bread is made and thank you to Miss Simms for organising this visit for the children.

**Twitter**

If you ever feel like you are missing any of your child’s learning, please follow us on Twitter where teachers update special events and learning from throughout the week. It’s easy to find on our school website as well if needed.

As always, thank you for your continued support and I will write to you again at the end of November with more news about life in school.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Perkins

Headteacher