

11th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year!

I hope you had a lovely holiday and were able to enjoy the Christmas festivities with your families and friends despite the weather. Many thanks for all the gifts and cards we received as a staff - we were most grateful.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the Christmas Nativities in school, our Carol Service at St Mary's in the Market Place and the Christmas Craft afternoon. All events were thoroughly enjoyed by the children, families and staff.

Your donated unwanted gifts last year were used to create raffle prizes for our Valentine, Easter, Summer and Christmas Raffles. The money raised, £2060 along with money raised by the PTA enabled us to pay for all the events we host to make Christmas so very special at Vernon Park: the Christmas Forest Trail; the Christmas Parties; the Pantomime for KS1 and KS2, Christmas Crafts; a book from Santa for every child; along with some new costumes for the Christmas productions and refreshments for yourselves.

As finances everywhere continue to challenge us, we are intending to raise the money again this school year in order to pay for the children's Vernon Park Christmas 2023. This is part of our effort to ensure families do not receive any requests for money from school in December.

We start this week with a non-uniform day on Friday 13th January for any unwanted gifts. Our first raffle will be the Valentines Raffle in February.

We thoroughly enjoyed having parents and carers back in school and intend to continue to open our doors to you. Three more classes will be inviting their parents and carers to Class Assemblies this term. Please look out for the invitations or look at the School Calendar on the website.

Each phase will also be holding a workshop for parents to support you to support your children's learning at home. We begin with EYFS: Miss Dakin and Mrs Sweeney will be welcoming parents into school on Monday 16th January at 2:15pm to talk about helping with reading, writing and phonics. KS1 with Mrs Calhoun and Miss Brierley will be on Tuesday 24th January at 2:15pm. LKS2 with Mrs Mickle and Mr Pattison on Monday 30th January at 2:15pm. Finally, for this term UKS2 with Miss Green and Miss Ridgway on Monday 13th February at 2:15pm. If there is anything you would like including in the presentations and discussions please do message the above, named staff on Dojo. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions and see examples of learning during the afternoons.

Safeguarding your children is the most important role we have. All staff are trained and we follow our policy when disclosures, observations or concerns are raised. The policy is available on the website. Along with staff in school, Mrs Bommer our Pastoral Manager, Mrs Mickle, Inclusion Manager and myself our Team Around the School (TAS) professionals are also

available to support children and families; Sarah Bieniasz (School Age Plus World), Liz Donegan (School Nurse) and Bethany Bank's (Social Worker). Please check the School Calendar for the weekly drop-in days with the above school staff or Miss Green, and the monthly drop in sessions with Sarah Bieniasz and Liz Donegan.

Please do name any items of clothing your children wear to school; lost property is growing! Please also remember to send them with a water bottle every day.

Please ensure you order your child's school lunch (if they have them) on School Grid. This can be done daily, weekly or termly for your convenience but before 9am on the day. If your child is absent, please remember to remove any lunches ordered.

If we can be of any assistance, please do come and speak with us or telephone the school office if you would prefer an appointment.

Yours sincerely

Claire E Lee
Head Teacher