

Dear Parents & Carers,

Already, we are nearly half way through November – the weather has certainly turned and we are now beginning to experience more frosts, wind and rain after a very mild start to the school year. Please see below for more information regarding inclement weather, just in case!

As we move closer to December, apart from planning for a full and exciting curriculum, we are beginning to turn our energies towards preparing for the festive season. I hope that you will be able to join us for some of the events we will be holding. Again, I have shared details of these below, along with information about some of the other exciting events that have been happening since the half term holiday...

Winter Coats - Please may I ask you all to ensure that your child is wearing a suitable (named) coat to school on a daily basis, especially now that the weather has turned colder. You may also wish to send in a sweatshirt and jogging bottoms for outdoor PE. If your child has lost a coat, please come and look in our lost property as there are a few waiting to be claimed.

Snow & Ice

Many of you will be aware that our school site is prone to ice in very cold weather and the roads around the school can get treacherous. As staff, we always do our best to keep the school open and ensure the safety of our school community. Our caretaker carries out a site inspection at 7am every morning and if there is ice in small areas, he will cone-off that area and salt the main routes through the school only. With such a big site, it is impossible to salt every pathway, therefore we will prevent the use of these areas and arrange alternative walking routes. Signs will be put out to guide you, staff will also be on duty to ensure you know where to go, so please do not worry.

In icy conditions, our priority has to be the safety of all individuals on our school site; we will not be able to salt any areas outside the school gates - so please take extra care on the paths and when driving. There is a salt bin close to both entrances of the school site and so it would be fantastic if any parent or carer was able to offer support by spreading some salt if they notice a particularly icy patch outside of the entrance – in particular, the pavement at the entrance to Exwick Lane can be icy as it is in shade.

Further to the pavements being icy, the roads around the school are not gritted by the council as they prioritise bus routes. Historically, both Peterborough Road and Gloucester Road, from the entrance of Knowle Drive up to Exwick Lane, have been very icy in extreme conditions. As such, we advise drivers to park along the gritted bus route and walk the final part of the journey to school. We will do our best to keep the Drop Off zone open but if the road to the school is so icy that it is dangerous to use, we will close this facility as safety for the whole school community is paramount. This plan is for extreme weather conditions only and we will always endeavour to 'run as normal!'

Finally, whilst we will always do our utmost to keep the school open at all times, I feel it would be sensible to inform you of procedures in the unlikely event that the school has to close because of severe weather. In this event, I have to inform the local authority (Devon) who will immediately publish it on their website: <http://new.devon.gov.uk/schools/> We will also inform local radio stations of the closure (Heart, Radio Devon etc). We will send a school comms e-mail and text message to parents to notify them of the closure and will also put a notice on the home page of the school website (please note that this will take a short period of time to update).

I am not aware of any snow or ice forecast over the coming weeks, but it seems sensible to share this with you – just in case!

PTA Disco – The PTA School Disco will be held tonight, Tuesday 13th November – FS/KS1 (with a parent/carers please) 5:00 – 6:15pm; KS2 6:30 – 7:45pm. If any child is being collected by someone other than their usual parent/carers after the KS2 disco, **please inform the school office**. All KS2 children will need to be collected from the hall. £1.00 entry on the door for

children and parents. Please can we ask that children do not bring mobile phones and that their footwear is suitable, i.e. no 'Heelys.'

Children in Need – Friday 16th November – Non Uniform Day

As usual, our School Council have elected for us to support the Children in Need campaign. If you wish to support this worthy charity, your child may dress in non-uniform for a suggested donation of £1. The theme is 'Show us your spots!' although children may wish to wear any outfit – providing it is suitable for the many activities we do at school each day! We ask that this includes sensible shoes and clothing suitable for all weather conditions. There is absolutely no requirement to purchase a special outfit for the day.

Prizes for our Grand Christmas Raffle to be held at the Fete on Thursday 13th December

At this time, as every year, we call on the generosity of our parents and local community to swell the prizes. If you are able to approach an organisation (hairdresser, pub, bakery, etc) that may be willing to donate a prize, we would be extremely grateful. In the meantime, do you have any unopened gifts, bottles or boxes that would be suitable for our raffle? These are used to make up fabulous hampers that are always highly complimented! Any contributions can be dropped off at the school office. Thank you in advance for your support.

Santa's Grotto: We are so excited to announce that Father Christmas will be visiting us again this year and is looking forward to the children sharing their Christmas lists with him! If your child would like to visit him in our special grotto, they will be given a present and have a personal photograph taken with Father Christmas. This will cost £3.50. Unfortunately, Father Christmas will only be able to see children who have **handed in slips and paid by Monday 26th November** – as he is in high demand all around the world! If you are unable to meet this deadline, your child will be able to visit him with you on the afternoon of the Christmas Fete (Thursday 13th December). During the fete, the cost will be £3.00 but will not include a photograph. Please note, there are often queues to see him at the fete!

Christmas Lunch

The school Christmas lunch will be on Tuesday 18th December and will cost £2.50. Whilst there is no need to send in payment at this stage, it would be very helpful for the kitchen ladies to know in advance if your child has any special dietary requirements i.e. vegetarian, gluten free etc. As per our usual arrangements, we assume that all children will have the Christmas lunch unless we are informed otherwise. These children will require a packed lunch.

Remembrance Day Assembly – Our Year 6 pupils prepared and led this incredibly thought provoking assembly last Friday to share their understanding and respect for those who have sacrificed so much to allow us to live our lives freely. I was extremely proud of the children's maturity and confidence. The video of the assembly is now available on the Year 6 blog for any friends and family to watch.

Many thanks.



Mrs C. Neal
Headteacher

Term Dates and Activities 2018/2019

w/c 26 th November 2018	Last week for clubs and music lessons
w/c 3 rd December 2018	Father Christmas visits begin
Thursday 6 th December 2018	Y6 Visit to Museum and Christmas Market
Monday 10 th December 2018	pm FS Nativity Performance 1
Tuesday 11 th December 2018	am FS Nativity Performance 2
Wednesday 12 th December 2018	am FS Nativity Performance 3 pm Y1 Nativity Performance 1 Eve Y1 Nativity Performance 2
Thursday 13 th December 2018	am Y1 Nativity Performance 3 3.00pm onwards Christmas Fete
Friday 14 th December	am FS/Y1 Circus Berzercus show in main hall
Monday 17 th December 2018	3.30pm Y 2/3 Carols in the Playground
Tuesday 18 th December 2018	School Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 19 th December 2018	3.30pm Y4-6 Carols in the Playground
Thursday 20 th December 2018	Achievement Assemblies Last day of term
Friday 21 st December 2018 – Friday 4 th January 2019	Christmas holiday
Monday 7 th January 2019	Non pupil day – staff in
Tuesday 8 th January 2019	Children return to school for Spring term
Monday 18 th – Friday 22 nd February 2019	Half-term holiday
Monday 25 th February 2019	Children return to school
Friday 5 th April 2019	Last day of term
Monday 8 th April – Monday 22 nd April 2019	Easter holiday
Tuesday 23 rd April 2019	Children and staff return for Summer term
Monday 6 th May 2019	Bank holiday
Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May 2019	Half-term holiday
Monday 3 rd June 2019	Non-pupil day – staff in
Tuesday 4 th June 2019	Children return to school
Monday 24 th June 2019	Occasional day – no school for pupils or staff
Tuesday 23 rd July 2019	Last day of term for pupils
Wednesday 24 th July 2019	Last day of term for staff

Father Christmas – December 2018

Please book my child/ren in to see Father Christmas during school time (please note that children are taken in classes and not with siblings).

Child's name Class

Child's name Class

Child's name Class

I enclose £3.50 per child (to include the visit, a present and a photograph). My total cost is £.....

No bookings will be taken after Monday 26th November 2018