



Dear Parents and Guardians

Firstly many thanks to all of you who have supported our arts week by coming in and sharing your expertise, and by helping your children with their interpretations of paintings, we have some really imaginative entries! The children have had a lovely week, and a good end to what has seemed like an endless half term. We have a staff training day on Monday 3rd November so school will be open again on Tuesday 4th. This is also photograph day, so you might want to send them to school looking tidy!

School Dinners

We would like to ask you all to please ensure that you pay for school dinners in advance. We currently have a great deal of outstanding debt that totals over £1,000. This is money we can't afford to lose, and is already affecting the provision we provide for all our children. We operate on a very limited budget and every sheet of paper and pencil is accounted for! If you normally pay online can you please do this during the week BEFORE your child has school dinners. We are aware that some payments may not have appeared on our school system when the Tucasi online payment system server has gone down, so please check your payments have cleared, and provide us with a print-out of your transactions if you receive a letter from us about a debt that you think is incorrect. Please make any cash or cheque payments in advance. If you are unable to clear a debt we will ask you to send your child with a packed lunch until the debt is cleared. We have in the past tried to be flexible when families have needed school dinners with short notice, but we cannot afford to provide meals for free and certainly not when there is money still outstanding. If you would like to pay online, and do not already do so, please contact the school office who will issue you with an account. If you do pay online, do please keep up-to-date with payments, it is easy to forget "virtual" money, but the costs to the school in the time it takes to chase debts is also considerable. We have lots of children enjoying school dinners and do want this to continue but we do need you all to ensure you are paying for what they are eating before they eat it! Many debts are only for small amounts of less than 10 pounds, but we currently have quite a lot of them!

School Dinner Charges for this half term (to be paid in advance please!!)
2.15 per day, £10.75 per week, £73.10 for the half term.

Personal Property in School

We would like to draw your attention that your children's personal property is NOT covered by school insurance. Just as your own personal possessions are very unlikely to be covered in your place of work, neither are your children's here at school. This includes bikes, musical instruments, phones and any other items of value. Any losses need to be covered on your own personal home insurance. The school gates are locked at 9.30 and opened again at 3.20 or so, so any bikes or scooters parked inside the gates should ideally be locked. Accidental damage can also happen in a busy environment with lots of comings and goings. A guitar was recently accidentally damaged in a school corridor so we have made different arrangements about how these can be stored during the day. If your child does bring an item of some value into school do make sure their class teacher knows and can think about a safe place to store it.

Operation Christmas Child

Your child should have come home with a leaflet about this charity that the school has supported for many years. Many families find this a really "hands on" way to help their children understand how they can give something truly tangible to children less fortunate. This ties in really well this year with our work this week. The charity has an overtly Christian message, and if you find this unacceptable then you are of course under no pressure to take part. The charity makes no attempt to hide this aspect of their work, and do visit their website on www.samaritanspurse.uk.com if you want to find out more. The boxes will be collected on the **17th November** but we know quite a number of families like to make their boxes up as a half-term activity, so we thought we would remind you in time to do this if you wish. We usually send off around 80-100 boxes each year.

Poppies

We will as always be raising money for the British Legion Poppy Appeal after half term, with children being able to make a small donation to wear a poppy or a wristband.

Headlice

As always, a half term break is an ideal time to do many things you don't normally have time for, a visit to the park, a midweek shopping trip, visiting much loved friends and relations, and catching up on some sleep! Do include a good check of everyone's hair in this half term list of joys! There's bound to be a wet day when going out will be grim, so being at home with some wet hair, lots of hair conditioner and a nit comb will be an alternative way to spend a rainy afternoon...

