



'working and growing together'



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Headteacher: Mr Paul Quarry

3rd December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are all well and beginning to get excited in the run up to Christmas - here is this week's newsletter. Unfortunately, we have seen a high level of absence today in school with attendance at 85%. Most of the absences have been in Upper Foundation and Year 5 due to reasons that are not Covid-19's main three symptoms and have been due to headache, earache, sickness and diarrhoea. However, if you have not done so already, we would advise lateral flow tests at least as we know from previous advice given by Wakefield Public Health, these can be symptoms associated with Covid-19 in children. There are definitely other viruses and infections going around in the locality, I have been absent this week because of one, and we have heard of low attendance for non-Covid illness from other local schools too but testing to eliminate Covid-19 is wise – thank you for those of you who have already done this.

ASSESSMENT WEEK – 6th – 10th December

Next week, it is assessment week in school. During the week, pupils will complete assessments in reading, maths and spelling, punctuation and grammar. Pupils in Year 1 and 2 will complete their Phonics assessments and pupils in Year 3 and 4 will complete a multiplication check too. It is important that your children try their best in their assessments – this year more than any other. These assessments, alongside teacher assessments, will enable teachers to identify the knowledge and skills that the children have retained, understood and can apply and, more importantly, identify and gaps in learning from recent years and the current year's learning so far. We would appreciate it if you could reiterate this message to your children and encourage them to try their very best.

SCHOOL PANTOMIME – Friday 10th December

As a reward to all of the pupils trying their best during assessment week, and showing that they are respectful, responsible and resilient, we have arranged a screening of the pantomime 'Cinderella' starring none other than Blue Peter legend Peter Duncan (if you are old enough to remember the 80s). We would encourage pupils and staff to come dressed to impress as if they were going for an evening to the theatre in smart (or smart causal) attire for the day.

Pupils can also bring their own sweets and popcorn on Friday to eat during the screening. As always, we would please ask that children do not bring in any products that contain nuts of any kind though. We would also ask that pupils do not bring an excessive amount of either sweets and / or popcorn.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

We have had a few parents / carers asking whether children can bring in Christmas cards to school to distribute. Unfortunately, once again, we will not be able to allow this, especially in light of recent guidance. Apologies for this and we hope that you understand.

NEW SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2022-23

The new school calendar has now been approved and you should have received a copy of this with this newsletter.

VALUES, RULES AND BEHAVIOUR POLICY REVIEW

You may recall that in the Summer Term last year, we reviewed our vision, values and school rules and subsequently, ready for September, reviewed our Positive Behaviour Policy. At the end of this term, we will be reviewing these again with pupils and staff and would welcome the thoughts and opinions of parents and carers too so we will be sending out an electronic form in the next two weeks regarding this.

We have been made aware of some discussion regarding Golden Time and Golden Minutes on social media. Through reading the comments and conversations in the screenshots provided to us, it is apparent that there are some misunderstandings regarding how Golden Time and Golden Minutes work. There has been some very clear misunderstanding of information regarding how many minutes classes have needed to sit out, as well as misunderstandings being evident about how the system works and how things have changed recently. To clarify this, the system of Golden Time and Golden Minutes itself has not been changed for many years and is certainly the same now as it was when every pupil currently in school started with us. This is one of the reasons for us wanting to review this.

As a school, we are always willing to listen to what pupils, staff members and parents and carers are saying to us and will genuinely consider any constructive comments, and even criticism, when expressed to us in the correct way and hopefully the section below regarding communication will highlight this. I do not mention this in this week's newsletter for any other reason than to suggest that there may be a better way of working together to improve things for the children. Rather than turning to social media, we would encourage you to contact us directly so that we can address any issues together.

With this in mind, as part of our review on behaviour, which will genuinely consider different approaches to rewards and sanctions and the part that Golden Time plays in this, I would like to suggest forming a parent group (of at least 5 or 6 parents / carers) that we set up alongside myself and Mrs Morgan to meet up (it would have to be virtually initially) to gather parent and carer opinions and suggestions so that we can involve you when planning how we can adapt our behaviour systems, policies and procedures in the future. If you would be interested in being part of this group, please email me directly at Pquarry@ipmat.co.uk

BEHAVIOUR COMMUNICATION

In the last couple of weeks, prior to the changes in guidance and restrictions earlier this week, we were able to have a few face-to-face meetings with parents and carers regarding behaviour. I think they have reminded us of how beneficial and important these meetings are in terms of school and parents / carers working together for the benefit of the pupils. Some very useful feedback and suggestions were offered during these meetings, all of which will be duly taken on board and considered. One, which I very much agreed with, was that parents and carers would appreciate feedback on their child's behaviour if it had been short of expectations as soon as it becomes an issue to enable them to address this at home and prevent it becoming a regular problem. I think that limiting feedback and conversations at the door at home time, as part of necessary Covid restrictions, is one of the main reasons that this has been an issue. As a result of this request, staff have now been asked to email parents and carers at the earliest opportunity to alert you of any instances where a pupil's behaviour has been a problem at multiple points in one day or problematic across a number of days. This will then allow you to follow this up sooner with your children but will also make the children more aware that teachers are keeping you updated of any inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour that day.

We are also currently trialling a behaviour report card for pupils who have demonstrated repeated challenging behaviours in order to keep parents and carers informed on a daily basis about how their child has behaved in school.

Please remember that Class Dojo is also a way of keeping up to date with the positive behaviour in school that your child is demonstrating. This is also something we will be seeking your thoughts and opinions of when we send the electronic form in the forthcoming weeks.

REINDEER RUN AND CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

This year, the Reindeer Run will take place on Monday 13th December and the Christmas Jumper day will be on Wednesday 15th December. Children can come wearing their Christmas jumpers for the reindeer run too if they wish although we know that some prefer to be reindeer instead!

CHRISTMAS DINNER

School Christmas Dinner is on Wednesday 15th December this year. Even if your child does not usually have a school dinner, you can order and pay for one online on the SchoolGrid website.

[SchoolGrid](#)

SCHOOL PARKING PROMISE

In the new year, we will be visited by the School Parking team to look at parking around school. You will receive a letter regarding the 'School Parking Promise' next week and we would be grateful if you could read this and return the slip on the letter to school, whether you come to school in a car or not. It is a promise to ensure that the safety of our children is the priority.

PE KIT

The PE kit will arrive in school next week so this will be labelled and distributed before Christmas. From when we return in the new year, all children will be expected to wear their PE kit for PE, indoor and out. We are aware that in colder months, children will need to wear clothes over their PE kit, or tracksuit bottoms rather than the shorts, but please make good use of the kit.

Each child from Upper Foundation Stage to Year 6 will receive a PE T-shirt and pair of shorts with the Fitzwilliam logo on. We will then collect in at the end of the year and re-issue the kit in September as this will be the final year that we can provide a PE kit for everyone unfortunately.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

As you may have read or seen on social media or in the news recently, there has been a few mixed messages regarding nativities and Christmas performances this year. Guidance on this is contradictory. However, as a school, we made a decision many weeks ago regarding this and we will be sticking with our initial decision. That decision was that each class record something and then share the videos with you on Class Dojo and our social media. As a staff, we felt that it would be an unnecessary risk getting everyone together in an enclosed space such as the hall for a 20-30 minute performance. We also considered holding a performance by each class outside but opted against this due to the fact that the weather may make this an impossibility for some classes and then we would be in a position where some classes performed and others didn't.

With all classes doing a recording and making it available to you, we feel that this is the fairest and safest way to spread a little Christmas joy this year.

Teachers will be sharing these on Class Dojo on Friday 17th December.

Attendance – Autumn 2 – Week 5

Year Group	Attendance (%)
UFS	74.5%
1	91.0%
2	93.4%
3	98.8%
4	93.0%
5	90.8%
6	88.9%
School Average	90.1%

Target = 97%

This week, congratulations go to Year 3 who, once again, were our attendance champions.

GOLDEN WORKERS

This week we have **RECOGNISED** pupils who have been **RESPONSIBLE** around school.
Well done to all of our **responsible** pupils!

Golden Assembly - Core Values

	<p>Respect being respectful being tolerant being kind</p>		<p>Resilience being resilient showing perseverance valuing self-worth</p>	
	<p>Responsibility being responsible being honest being reflective</p>		<p>Recognition showing appreciation taking pride</p>	

Date:	Autumn 2 - Week 5 - Friday 3 rd December 2021	
Year group	Pupil	Reason
1	Ruby	For always taking responsibility for her own learning and taking pride in all that she does.
2	Harris	For taking responsibility in his own learning by becoming more independent in lessons.
3	Jack	For being an extremely conscientious and hardworking pupil, who puts 100% effort into all of his learning. He always sets an example to his class by listening well and being ready to learn, and he tries hard to learn from his mistakes.
4	Liberty	For being honest, always taking good care of school equipment and keeping herself safe. She also sets a good example for the rest of the class.
5	India	For being sensible and ready to begin her lessons. She always tries her best, is friendly, kind and polite and is a role model to others in the class.
6	Caitlin	For being a responsible learner that always tries her best, is honest and is an all-around excellent role model to others.

DIARY DATES

FITZWILLIAM PRIMARY SCHOOL



DIARY DATES – Autumn 2 – 2021-22

DATE	EVENT
Monday 6 th December – Friday 10 th December	Assessment Week
Friday 10 th December	Christmas Pantomime Screening
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th December	Art Gallery – Calendar Sale on the playground Different classes each day
Monday 13 th December	Reindeer Run
Tuesday 14 th December	Nursery and UFS Christmas Party PROVISIONAL DATE – TO BE CONFIRMED
Wednesday 15 th December	School Christmas Dinner Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 15 th December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party PROVISIONAL DATE – TO BE CONFIRMED
Thursday 16 th December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party PROVISIONAL DATE – TO BE CONFIRMED
Friday 17 th December	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Party PROVISIONAL DATE – TO BE CONFIRMED
Friday 17 th December	SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Tuesday 4 th January	SCHOOL RE-OPENS FOR SPRING TERM

STANDARD ITEMS

Free School Meals Information

PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR PARENTS / CARERS OF PUPILS IN UFS, YEAR 1, YEAR 2 or YEAR 3

You can apply for income-related free school meals on the Wakefield local authority website:

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-children/free-school-meals>

You are now able to complete the form online so it really has never been easier:

<https://forms.wakefield.gov.uk/Forms/schools/freeschoolmeals.aspx>

If your child is in UFS, Y1 or Y2, they are eligible for Universal FSM but **you can still apply if you think you are eligible for income-related free school meals**. If your child is in Year 2 and receiving universal free school meals, please remember that this will stop when they move into Year 3 (**if your child has just moved into Year 3, this means that unless you are entitled to FSM, they will no longer received free school meals**), so please ensure you have applied if you think you eligible.

School receives additional funding for the number of pupils in receipt of free school meals and it has never been as important as it is now to try to provide crucial interventions to help pupils catch up – any additional funding will help us to achieve this goal.

MY SCHOOL FUND REMINDER

My School Fund is an exciting initiative that combines the spending power of parents, guardians and carers to help boost our school budget. When families are connected to school, we can earn Card-Linked Rewards on your behalf as well as you pocketing some for yourselves when you spend with participating retailers including Sainsbury's and Argos. You can find out more online at:

<https://www.myschoolfund.org/#/Parent/login>

The more families we can get involved with the scheme, the more our school will earn in Card-Linked Rewards from your combined spend.

Have a great weekend,
Take care and stay safe,

Paul Quarry
Headteacher

SAFEGUARDING AND MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBING SUPPORT

Wakefield I Can - Online resource for children and young people in Wakefield

<https://wf-i-can.co.uk/>

Hazlehurst Centre – sexual violence and/ or sexual abuse support

<https://www.hazlehurstcentre.org/>

CHILDLINE – Removing Nude Images

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/remove-nude-image-shared-online/>

The Hideout – Domestic Abuse advice and support for children

<http://thehideout.org.uk/>

WDDAS – Domestic Abuse advice and support

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/health-care-and-advice/adults-and-older-people-services/domestic-abuse>

Relationship Matters – advice about parental conflict

<https://relationshipmatters.org.uk/>

Talk to Frank – Information about drugs

<https://www.talktofrank.com/>

Turning Point – Advice and support for drug and alcohol problems

www.turning-point.co.uk/wakefield

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

<https://www.southwestyorkshire.nhs.uk/services/forensic-child-and-adolescent-mental-health-services-camhs/>

Young Minds

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

NSPCC

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Samaritans

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

The Children's Society

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/see-hear-respond>

Barnardo's

[Believe in children | Children's charity | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](https://www.barnardos.org.uk/)

Winston's Wish

[Winston's Wish - giving hope to grieving children \(winstonswish.org\)](https://www.winstonswish.org/)

Wakefield Families Together

<https://www.wakefieldfamilies-together.co.uk/>

ONLINE SAFETY

Parent Info – help and advice for families in the digital world

<https://parentinfo.org/>

Thinkuknow – advice and guidance to keep children safe online

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

NSPCC – Online Safety

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Lego – Online Safety

<https://www.lego.com/en-gb/sustainability/children/digital-child-safety>

Net Aware (NSPCC) – Guidance about games and apps

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>

CEOP - Child exploitation and Online Protection

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

OTHER USEFUL SITES / CONTACTS

Wakefield SEND Local Offer

<https://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/Home>

STAR – Bereavement Support

<https://starbereavement.org.uk/>

ICON – Coping with crying babies

<https://iconcope.org/>

NHS – 999 for emergencies or 111

POLICE – 999 or 101 for non-emergencies

CHILD LINE – 0800 1111

SCHOOL DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS AND DEPUTIES

Mr Quarry



Mrs Morgan



Mr Downes



Miss Scott

