



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Parents and Children



Our recent Ofsted report will be made available to you early next week.



Confirming the remaining teacher training dates for the school year:

- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019
- **\*NEW\*** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019



If you wish to move your child to a different Swindon school, the system for doing so has recently changed to an online system. This means that the school does not know of the names of children possibly leaving until a much later date.

Could I please ask that if you do make an online transfer application that you inform the school office either before or as you do so?



I have noticed a large number of boys have had their hair cut into the latest fashion, which in my opinion is very close to the guidelines we set. Please be mindful when your child asks for a particular style and that we do not allow tram lines.



Whilst we appreciate that many people love dogs, we have a number of children in school who are either frightened and/or allergic to them. We therefore ask that dogs are not brought onto the school playground at any time.

The only exception would be assistant dogs with prior agreement.

Thank you for your support and understanding



#### **Family Holidays in term time.**

A reminder that the Headteacher may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any request for leave must be made in writing. A response will be returned indicating whether leave is authorised. Any absence not authorised may be liable to a local authority penalty notice.

In order to try and reduce the number of families who take holiday in term time and being very aware of high costs, the Governors and I have decided to extend the holiday in academic year **October 2019 only**.

**School will be closed to children from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 for two weeks; children would return to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

Three Teacher Training Days will be allocated, making the holiday period a full 2 weeks.

I hope that the advance notice will enable many of you to find a holiday at a reasonable price and keep your children in school throughout all term times.



Can I please remind the parents and carers of children in Class 4 to stand clear of the yellow lines at the end of the path.

They have been painted there to try and avoid congestion as people come into and leave school.

There is room to stand over by the small hall windows and it is also sheltered from the wind!



## Black Cat News

### Foundation Stage

G'day! Foundation Stage have been on their travels again and have now taken me all the way to Australia! We have been exploring how the country is different to our own and have looked at famous landmarks and celebrations. The children have created boomerangs using traditional Aboriginal designs and have listened to didgeridoo music. We have also discovered new and amazing animals found in Australia and have enjoyed listening to the hilarious laughing sounds made by the Kookaburra bird. The children have written postcards as if on a holiday in sunny Australia – the perfect activity for a cold and chilly day!

### Year 1

Over in Year One last week the children have been busy practising their conjunctions *and* writing lovely sentences *and* finally getting to retell the story of The Gingerbread Man after all their learning. In Maths the children have been feeling quite grown up by tackling some two step number problems, ensuring both sides of the equals sign are balanced (it's only fair!), and by writing some of their times tables for the first time. If each chocolate bar I eat has 10 squares of chocolate, what will I have if I buy 5 bars of chocolate? A tummy ache! In Topic the children have been researching some countries with hotter climates for Albert the explorer to visit. They will then be voting for which he should go to. In Science they have been testing the buoyancy of different materials ready to help Albert build a raft for his journey. I hope they work it out soon as his boat is quite stuck and I hear it is very cold in the Arctic!

### Year 2

This term I've noticed the Year 2 children have been using the Theatre; I think they're purr-actising a play about some Twits! When I wander into their classrooms they have been finding halves, quarters and thirds of shapes and numbers. I'm hoping they might be able to help me share my tin of cat food with my four cat friends. In English they are writing exciting stories about the Gingerbread Man. I have seen that some of them have chosen to include a cat in their stories which makes me very happy! The Year Ones have even been taking part and will be writing their own stories too. Over the next couple of weeks I understand that the children are doing an investigation into what materials would make a good waterproof coat. I hope they make one for me; I hate getting wet!

### Year 3

As I wandered into the Year 3 corridor this week, it all became very noisy. There seemed to be a huge commotion in the studio. As I crept closer, it appeared the children had travelled back in time, two thousand years ago. A Roman Warrior had come to visit. Luckily, he seemed to be friendly and wasn't trying to invade the school. He taught the children all about his armour and weapons, it was great fun. The children had a

"pawsome day" making Roman mosaics and learning about Roman Numerals.

Later in the week, in Science, children were also busy investigating the friction on their shoes, using a Newton metre - might come in handy with all this snow! They have also been having great fun learning all about magnetic forces.

### Year 4

The children in Year 4 have been getting stuck into their topic on the Romans over the last two weeks. They have been looking at Roman mosaics and even had the experience of meeting a real life Roman gladiator this week. I thought he was rather scary! The laptops have been out again and this time they are looking at programming and using 'Scratch' to create an online project. The children are very excited and I cannot wait to see their final effort.

### Year 5

I noticed some out-of-this-world art happening in Year 5 recently. Lots of planets were being recreated with a variety of different media being used, they look paw-some! Talking of space, I saw Oreos being used purr-fectly to show how the moon has different phases, their diagrams looked good enough to eat and I believe some of them were, although no one left any for me!! Amazing inventions were on the cards to help make life easier on the station in 'Hugo Cabret', let's hope none of them go wrong!

### Year 6

This week Year 6 have been young inventors, dusting off their engineering skills to design a robot inspired by our topic 'Hugo Cabret'. The children's designs range from clock-repairers to tea-vending-bots, train station security officers and even the dreaded ticket inspector... judging by their powerful sales pitches I just might have to get my paws on one! After writing instructions for their 'User Manuals' to carefully guide the customer through their new paw-chase, I think they might give Wallace & Gromit's world-famous inventions a run for their money! Although, rumour has it, a manufacturing fault has caused a few of our robots to misbehave... let's hope our budding engineers can fix them before there's a real cat-astrophe!

Yours sincerely,

Frances Billinge  
Headteacher