



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

Dear Parents

Welcome back to term 2, I hope everyone enjoyed the longer Autumn break?

Analysis of attendance figures showed that taking this extended holiday reduced the percentage of holiday taken in term time around this period by a third.

With this in mind I have decided to repeat this for the academic year 2020/21.

**School will be closed to children from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 for two weeks; children will return to school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.**

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

**Family holidays should be taken during the school holiday periods only.**

I am unable to project further ahead as Swindon Borough Council have not yet published term dates for 2021/22.



### **Family Holidays in Term Time.**

Schools have a very full curriculum to follow within the term time given and any absence has a negative effect on a child's learning. Whilst we acknowledge that illness cannot be helped, holidays should be taken during school closure periods. Following Government expectations on attendance, no leave of absence/holiday will be authorised for any child, irrespective of their attendance, except for exceptional circumstances. Any request for leave must be made in writing, addressed to the Headteacher. A response will be returned indicating whether leave is authorised. Any absence not authorised may be liable to a local authority penalty notice.

The remaining two Teacher Training Days for this academic year are:

- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### Nasal flu vaccination – Electronic consent

As last year, the Immunisation Team will be offering the Flu vaccination to **all Primary aged children**. This will take place between October - December 2019 across Wiltshire/BaNES/Swindon and as last year, the consent will need to be completed electronically. **Haydonleigh vaccination day is Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.**

In order to provide electronic consent for your child's Flu vaccination, please access the consent portal via the following link:

<https://schoolimms.virgincare.co.uk/flu/2019/swindon>



### **Wiltshire Air Ambulance**

Thank you for supporting our yellow and green non-uniform day to raise funds for this awesome charity.

We raised an impressive £932.30 to do our bit to help make sure Wiltshire Air Ambulance can keep flying.



We will be marking Armistice Day on Monday with a minutes silence at 11am.

National Anti-bullying week is next week but to avoid clashing with Armistice Day on Monday activities in school will start on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November. The theme this year is 'Change Starts With Us.' Children will participate in lessons and assemblies around this theme.

On Tuesday we are launching the week with '**Odd Socks Day.**' It is an opportunity to encourage children to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!

All children can come to school on Tuesday wearing odd socks but they **MUST** wear school uniform!



Now the temporary 'hat' on our Reading Bus is successfully working and keeping the inside dry, we are hoping to be able to start using the bus again in the next couple of weeks.

Moving forward, we would welcome anybody with ideally an hour or 2 spare each week to help run the library.

This would mostly involve general tidying and checking that books have been returned. It does not have to be the same day/time each week, as we'd appreciate anytime that could be offered. Please inquire in the office or see Mrs Graham in Year 4.



Our lost property basket is often overflowing with un-named school uniform, coats, shoes and water bottles!

Please come and take a look and claim what belongs to your child.

We will retain un-named lost property for approximately one term before we give it either to the PTA or to a local charity shop for sale.

To help reuniting lost items with owners, it would be helpful if all uniform was clearly named.



Can I **PLEASE** remind parents to respect our neighbours and park and drop off sensibly? We are very lucky to have Morrisons car park at our disposal – please use it where you can. The visitor's car park is not for general use. The few blue badge holders who have already spoken to the school are the only cars that should be entering school grounds at the start and end of the school day. This includes Breakfast Club and after school clubs.

Please make sure that your childminder or whoever collects your child from school is aware of this.



### Foundation Stage

We are all excited to be back in Foundation Stage and have a busy term ahead. We have been celebrating the amazing festival of Diwali and exploring the wonderful traditions that take place. We are also excited about Bonfire Night and have been using the percussion instruments to create our own firework sounds – we have definitely returned back to school with a bang!

### Year 1

This week when I went past the Year One classrooms it all looked a little different. The children were busy working hard at their tables! This week they've been working on being independent in English, writing to Ted who sent them some photos of what he'd done in the holidays and also their ideas about what would be the best day ever. In maths the children have been having a go at subtraction, using real resources and applying their learning to real life contexts. They also learnt about the history behind bonfire night and thought about what objects someone in the Victorian times could have had. The Year Ones are hoping to do on their local area walk Wednesday of next week but are still looking for volunteers to make this possible. Please let your child's class teacher know if you are able to assist.

### Year 2

Year 2 had a visitor the other day, I could smell her from miles away! I peeked in the theatre but I didn't dare to go in! She had a wooden walking stick and an ugly, glass eye not like my beautiful cat's eyes. She was very dirty and smelly. She had spaghetti in her hair and her face was covered in tomato sauce, she told the children that she hadn't washed in months! The children tell me that her name was Mrs Twit. She was busy making spaghetti but I was shocked to see that she was mixing in wiggly worms and covering them in tomato ketchup! Apparently she was playing a trick on her husband Mr Twit, I wonder if he ate that disgusting dinner? The year 2 children seemed to enjoy meeting her and it was a great start to their new text by Roald Dahl.

### Year 3

It was lovely to see Year 3 come back to school so well and focused on their learning, after their half term rest.

As I glanced in on an English lesson, a discussion was going on, as to whether school uniforms are a good idea or not. I heard children getting their heads into debate mode, and coming up with reasons and evidence to support their balanced arguments.

In Maths, children have been securing their skills of repeated addition of equal groups, and linking this to multiplication.

### Year 4

Miaow-ving up the corridor towards Year 4 I could hear the chitter-chatter of excited voices. The children were embarking on an epic voyage... with a Viking longboat art project! Using watercolours, wax crayons, sketching pencils and collage they created stormy seas, billowing sails and many menacing warships. It seems as though Haydonleigh's final fleet will be the envy of the land! After all this excitement, I curled up and took a cat-nap on the carpet, whilst the children listened to their class book, 'How To Train Your Dragon'. Did you know those poor Norse children had to prove themselves as true Vikings at dragon-fighting school? Sounds paw-ful!

### Year 5

As I paw-trolled the Year 5 and 6 corridor this week, I noticed some children were missing! Luckily, they had gone on a purr-fect visit to Steam to find out about the Great Western Railway coming to Swindon. During their visit, they discovered the many benefits of working for the GWR as well as the fact it was hard, dirty and noisy work – it sounded paw-ful! I like the look of Mr Brunel's hat – it looks purr-fect for a cat nap.

During the week I noticed some quite rowdy discussions happening in the Year 5 classrooms, as I poked my ears round for a closer listen I was pleased to hear it was just the Year 5's practising debating whether Jim should escape the workhouse or not. The workhouse sounds a purr-fectly paw-ful place to be so I don't blame him for wanting to escape – but what will his life be like without the shelter and food it provides?

### Year 6

This week, whilst prowling along the upper Key Stage 2 corridor, I purred with delight at the sight of Year 5 and 6 children working together on a Science topic. Their focus, to investigate how to protect big cats in at hostile world – a cause close to my own heart. Su-purr-ior scientists, from each year group collaborated to ask questions, plan

affair tests, record an accurate set of measurements, calculate averages and better still, they used their ICT skills to present their findings using EXCEL. Science books in both year groups look purr-fectly paw-some, displaying an array of amazing investigative skills.

Elsewhere in the curriculum, the Year six children have been finding out about the jobs that children did during the Victorian age. Using a range of hiss-torical sources, they have discovered what the jobs were like and gathered evidence to show that they were hazardous, made worse by the fact that the children were often treated cruelly. This newly acquired information inspired a monstrous poetry marathon. As the end of the week approaches, the children are preparing to publish kennings that magnify the intolerable conditions endured by Victorian children such as chimney sweeps, mineworkers and factory workers. A superb start to term 2. Well done everyone.

Yours sincerely



Frances Billinge  
Headteacher