

# Newsletter 11 (22/11/19)



Dear Parents and Carers,

Another week has come to an end and it was lovely to see some of our 5/6 class competing in Born to Win on Monday, children in 1/2 writing super headlines and newspaper linked to their wider curriculum learning on WW2, Hedgehog children searching for the missing mischievous pea from their book around school, 3/4 children learning their times tables through song and finding out about charities that 'give' in their assembly and it was super to watch Badger class present their Thinkabout assembly yesterday to the rest of the school. They presented lots of examples of how they are weaving well-being into their daily learning experiences and they certainly gave everyone in the hall something to think about. 'Giving' has been our assembly theme this week and it is wonderful to see so many children giving their time, care and attention to others in school in a variety of ways – it makes us very proud of them. Lots of our children and staff gave their time last weekend to the Holsworthy carnival where a group from Clawton dressed as Dalmatians along with their very own Cruella DeVil to join in the parade. They danced and sang all the way around and were awarded first prize! Thank you to Claire Orchard who supported and danced with the children and to all the parents and staff who went along to cheer them on! Well done also to all the other children who joined in on floats from Beavers / Cubs and other organisations! What a super community event that Clawton very much enjoyed taking part in!

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend with family and friends – let's hope we see a bit of Winter sun too!

*Mrs Marston*

**PTA – please see poster attached for full details!**

## **Photographs**

Don't forget to send in your orders for photographs – can we have these in on Monday please so that we can get the school order off in good time for delivery before the end of term!

## **Online Payments System and Arrears!**

We plan to 'go live' with our new School Money system on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December but ahead of that you will be receiving a welcome text message early next week – if you need to update your mobile phone or email details please let us know urgently. Only the 'priority 1' contact will receive messages and be able to order and pay online. IT IS ESSENTIAL that all arrears are cleared before **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November**. We have to submit details of any outstanding payments on that day so that these can be uploaded to the School Money site before we are live on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Despite our best endeavours some parents have built up arrears for school lunches etc and these need to be cleared as a matter of urgency. Current debts need to be paid either by cash or cheque made payable to Alumnis MAT. Going forward the MAT operate a 'payments in advance' policy and parents are encouraged to log into School Money to book and pay for meals, wakey shakey, uniform and future trips. Preschool parents will have access to school lunches once we go live but not preschool fees (at least until the New Year – we are discussing how best to make this work for all concerned as we would not expect parents to pay half termly invoices in advance). Please bear with us in the transition period – it is a learning curve for us all and will take a few weeks to bed down.



## **Swimming session – 28<sup>th</sup> November**

Laura at Ruby Oak has asked if children in Fox Class can please bring a pair of **lightweight** pyjamas to next week's session as they will be taking part in some life-saving skills. The PJs need to be lightweight for obvious reasons and not thick onesies etc as they soak up a lot of water and will make things difficult! Thank you.

### **Christmas Play arrangements**

As in previous years, we do not propose to introduce a ticketing system as we want the whole school community to be able to enjoy both of our Christmas plays. This will mean the evening sessions in particular will be busy and we would like to encourage people to attend the afternoon sessions where possible so that we can make best use of the space available. Car parking is always an issue so would ask that if car sharing can take place, please choose this option. We would also like to ask you all to take particular care now we have dark nights; a torch would be advisable when moving around the car park area as a pedestrian.

### **Reminder: PE Kits & Waterproof Coats!**



Can we please remind parents that children need to have their PE kits in school throughout the week – an increasing number of children do not have kits with them on PE days and it is essential that they have a change of clothes, including a change of footwear. It is also essential that everyone brings a waterproof coat; we are keen that all children go outside to get fresh air at breaktimes and therefore a coat is needed every day please, sometimes we get nice weather first thing but can have heavy showers by break time. Thank you.

### **Early/late Arrivals**

We made a great start to the term with children arriving either at 8.10am for Wakey Shakey, with parents at 8.30am or on their own at 8.40am. Unfortunately, we are now getting unaccompanied children arriving in 'dribs & drabs' at various times before 8.40am and they are unsure where they should be. Can we remind parents that the choices are: children arrive at 8.10am for Wakey Shakey (Christine has the gate phone and is then aware of who is arriving on site) or they do not arrive until 8.30am when they have to be accompanied by parents until 8.40am. No unaccompanied children should be on site until 8.40am please as this could lead to a safeguarding issue – if children continue to arrive unaccompanied and early they will be directed to Wakey Shakey and charged 50p. We are also monitoring late arrivals and these are on the increase again - please ensure children are here in good time for registration at 8.50am. We are working with the EWO regarding absences and those continually arriving late are likely to receive a follow up letter.

### **Car Park & Parking in Claw Park**

We know the car park is a major issue and one we continue to work on improving. At the moment the leaves are covering up the lines between spaces and we have had lots of reports of cars taking up 3 spaces and cars being parked on the back line, blocking in empty spaces at the front! We know it is tempting to do this in order to have quick egress, but it has also been reported that these are often parents who are doing preschool drop off etc so are on site for a considerable period of time. This is causing frustration to other car park users. We have also been reminded by Claw Park residents that parents must not block access to their drives; some of the residents are elderly and infirm and we always need to be mindful that emergency services may require access. It is only with full co-operation on the part of all concerned that we can make a difficult situation workable. We are meeting soon with Westward Housing to push the proposed car park forward; it is a long slow process but the MAT are also keen to see it come to fruition and are working with us on finalising the lease and other formal processes. In the meantime your support is much appreciated.



### **Trip to Rosemoor for Years R-4**

We are finalising arrangements for a trip to Rosemoor on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December – a letter will come home today or Monday, depending when we receive confirmation from the coach company.

### **'Free to a good home' items!**

We have a number of items surplus to requirements which we are putting in the shelter inside the school gate – please help yourself to any of these – we prefer to recycle rather than spend £250 on another skip! We are hoping to re-use of the cabinets removed from Squirrel Class in the upstairs storeroom and have a waiting list for the items we don't need. If there is anyone willing to assist with installing the units for us we would be hugely appreciative – at the moment they are taking up valuable space in the school hall!

## **Safeguarding**

### **Health and Hygiene**

**Looking after the health and hygiene of our children falls under our Safeguarding duty and is something that we take very seriously.**

Unfortunately, we still have instances of recurring diarrhoea and vomiting, particularly in Squirrel Class, with some children now having had several bouts of it. We are working hard at school to encourage good hygiene routines but we have a duty of care to ask for support from parents and carers to help us eliminate these bugs and illnesses in school.

We feel that the problem is lingering due to some children being sent into school with early symptoms of the bug when they need to be kept at home. This is particularly the case where a sibling has had the bug. Parents need to look out for early symptoms which are stomach cramps and pain and even if a child has not been sick or had diarrhoea it is important that they are not sent into school if exhibiting these symptoms. We would also like to remind parents and carers that there is a 48 hour period after the last time children are sick or have diarrhoea before they can come back into school to ensure the germ has fully gone.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and our caretaker is being extremely vigilant with cleaning/sanitising procedures. We are also being vigilant with water bottles and making sure they are washed regularly; where children bring them home for you to clean, please ensure they are sent back in the next day so your child has their own named bottle to hand.

It is important to note that there has not been a large number of children off at any point, as would be normal with a serious sickness bug and we know other schools are having issues too. Nevertheless, we would like to ask for your full cooperation and support in ensuring that reoccurring outbreaks do not continue as they are becoming extremely frustrating for parents whose children have experienced several bouts of the same illness.