

Headteacher: Andrew Denham

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9th January 2024

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas holiday with friends and family and feel refreshed and ready for the New Year!

Here are some reminders and updates about the term ahead...

All families/Collective Worship Assembly: Mondays, 9.00am

We warmly invite parents to join us for our assembly after the morning drop-off. This assembly starts with a 'Big Question' that our school community will consider during the week. It gives us an opportunity to reflect on our school vision and values and think about how we can make the world a better place because of them. It's a slightly calmer start to the week, compared to our Friday Achievement Assembly(!), which will continue to be at 2.30pm and parents will get an invite to it if their child is due to receive an award.

Year 3, 4, 5 & 6/Home Learning: Set on Wednesday. Books to be handed back on Monday

It is our expectation that every child will complete the 'writing' task that we set e.g. editing, creative writing or spelling, punctuation and grammar or book review. We ask that children continue to read daily, practise their Timestables Rockstars and learn the weekly spelling patterns.

All children/Healthy Snack: Daily

Murphy and Donaldson are provided with free fresh fruit. Children in Year 3 upwards can bring their own snack into school but this **must be healthy** e.g., a piece of fruit or cereal bar. Staff will not allow children to have chocolate bars or crisps at break time – they will be told to put them back in their bag or lunchbox. Grapes must be cut in half and please do not send children in with nuts.

All children/Tuck Shop: Friday's

Tuck shop is open to the whole school and is held on Fridays during break-time. The **cost is £5** per seasonal term and a payment item will be sent out on ParentMail shortly.

All children/Make Up & jewellery: Daily

Children must not wear make-up to school. If they want to wear jewellery, stud earrings only.

Most children in Dahl Class & a few in Morpurgo/Shakespeare/Swimming: Starts Tuesday 16th January

Parents of children who will be going swimming this term will be sent a letter in the next couple of days.

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All children/Open Classrooms: Friday 26th January, 9.00-10.20*

This is an opportunity for parents to join in with their children's learning and see what they get up to in the classroom.

**We have needed to change this date from the 2nd February due to the number of children taking part in the Cross Country event.*

Year 3, 4, 5 & 6/Cross Country Runners: Friday 2nd February, 9.00-12.00

All of the children who took part in the Cross Country event last term will be invited to attend the West Oxfordshire finals. A letter will be sent out in the next couple of days.

Year 6/God and the Big Bang: Friday 2nd February, All Day

Year 6 will be meeting up with other EPA schools and taking part in an exciting interactive day. They will have the opportunity to discover some of life's biggest questions, enter into discussions with expert scientists of faith and then enter into a debate with their peers. The workshops explore the Big Bang, evolution, curiosity and more. Students have the opportunity to challenge the experts with their own big questions at the end of the day, as they have been encouraged to think critically through the day. This is a FREE event and will take place during the school day.

All children/FOSS Dare to be Different: Friday 9th February, All Day

Children will get the opportunity to break the uniform rules and wear something different/outrageous for the day! More details to follow.

All children/Tri-day/Last Day: Friday 9th February

Quizzes and tests to assess the children's learning from the term just gone (and to help teachers plan for next term), 50 Things to Do Activities and an Inter-House Competition.

All children/Names on uniform!!

It is day 2 of term and we have four coats and two jumpers in 'Lost Property', none of them have names on! If parents would like us to help return missing uniform to their child, the uniform needs to have their names on it.

Some children/Tutoring:

There will not be any tutoring after school this term.

All children/PE days:

Murphy (Reception): Monday and Forest School on a Friday

Donaldson (Year 1&2): Thursday and Friday. *Note: Children need PE kit on a Friday for karate*

Dahl (Year 3&4): Tuesday (swimming) and Wednesday

Morpurgo (Year 4&5): Tuesday and Thursday

Shakespeare (Year 5&6): Tuesday and Wednesday

Kind regards,
Andrew Denham