St Mary & St John CE Primary School

Headteacher: Elizabeth Burton

Newsletter 3: 24.10.19

A reminder that next week school is closed for the half term holiday from Monday 27 October to Friday 1 November. We return at the usual time on Monday 4 November.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a very busy and long term. Lots of staff and children have fallen prey to assorted infections and viruses recently so we hope everyone recovers over half term! It's been a very positive term with some stimulating trips and visits. We've been working hard on maths with an emphasis on using more concrete resources such as place value counters and Dienes place value apparatus so children have a number visual before moving to the abstract. I've had a chance to observe some maths lessons in younger and older classes and been impressed with the children's level of engagement.

Here are a few further notices:

Harvest:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our harvest collection for The Porch. I took a car load of assorted items there on Monday and they were very grateful for our help. Everything you donated will be put to good use.

School Calendar and Christmas cards:

Thank you to all the parents who have given time to creating our school calendar and cards. There is some fabulous art work about which will soon transform into actual cards and calendars for sale. The calendar theme this year is stories from around the world.

Lost Property:

We are trying to make our lost property more organised. We have a clothing rack in the shared area near the courtyard with unnamed lost property hanging up, easy to access. Please take any items you can use and we'd appreciate a small donation to the office in return. Every few weeks we will recycle unclaimed lost property but we hope that the within school recycling will help reduce waste.

Shared area:

We now have four round tables and good quality wooden chairs in our shared area so the red chairs have just gone! They have gone to another Oxfordshire school. We are pleased to have open spaces for adults and children (all very modern!) to work flexibly around the school. We are fortunate to have such a luxury of space in our school and want to make best use of it for our whole community.

Driving down Bedford Street:

This is a repeat reminder. Please please avoid driving down Bedford Street unless it is absolutely necessary. The car park at the end of Meadow Lane, accessed from Donnington Bridge, is a short distance away and it is free parking. We want to keep the air around school as fume free as possible and give cyclists, scootists and walkers a safe and pleasant journey to school. The morning greeting on the gate is a positive way to start the day and we don't want to spend it policing cars.

Pokémon and Match Attax cards:

These very popular cards can be used as an excellent playtime activity but the card playing is becoming more difficult with dubious trading and ensuing arguments and some children bringing in vast quantities of cards. We discussed this in our staff meeting and decided to communicate that cards are brought in at your child's own risk. We cannot take responsibility for cards getting lost or taken. If your child is concerned, please leave them at home. They will not be allowed out during lesson time.

And……. here's to a relaxing week's holiday!

Best wishes,

Liz Burton