

Dear Parents

Well what a busy start to the new term we have had. Christmas seems as though it were ages ago and as always time is whizzing by and we are already at the end of week 2 of a short 6 week term! We have a few new dates to add to your calendars and some general bits of information along with the gentle reminders that keep things running smoothly and with as little stress as possible.

New dates

February 6th as a follow up to the parents meeting on relationships and sex we are now at the point of reviewing and developing the policy. We would like to invite interested parents to be a part of this. If you would like to be a part of this group Mrs Carlisle is sending out a separate letter about this and you will need to reply. Those of you who attended the evening would be very helpful as you already have the knowledge of the discussion.

How can I measure the progress my child is making at school?

9th February 6pm-7pm a parent's information evening on the new levelling system will be held at school. This academic year the government removed the national curriculum levelling system when they changed the curriculum. I feel that this evening is one which every parent would benefit from attending from year 1 through to year 6. This has brought changes to every school in the country in the way in which they monitor and track pupil progress. The evening will give you lots of information with the aim of helping you understand what is going to be discussed at the parents evenings on the 2nd and 3rd March. This therefore will be a very useful meeting for parents to attend.

Holidays in term time

This is just a gentle reminder that as a school and a cluster of primary schools we do not authorise holidays in term time unless they meet the 'exceptional circumstances' suggested by the government. I am aware that many of you would like to tag days on to the schools holidays and this is one of the things that we are encouraged NOT to do. Please remember that 4 ½ days is 9 absences. This means that if you take a full week of 10 absences this will be referred forward for the penalty notice. We have no choice but to do this.

It may be of interest for you to note however that in the summer term we are finishing school 3 days earlier than most schools by putting 3 TD Days in place.

Snow closures

It was lovely to see a little bit of snow this week, and luckily we were not affected by it. There is more cold weather and snow forecast for the country next week. Please remember that we will put school closure information on the school website. Please give us a chance to get it on there though! Firstly I have to contact people in Great Bedwyn to find out the situation here. Then I have to get road reports and contact staff. As soon after this as possible the closure information will be put on the website. It will also be on GWR and Radio Wiltshire, and will appear on the radio's websites usually as well.

School toilets

Sorry to report on this one but last week we had a blockage in the boy's toilets. This was definitely caused by wet wipes being used and then flushed down the toilet. Please DO NOT send your child to school with any kind of toilet wipe. Our system could not cope with it. Not only was it very unpleasant but it cost the school £90 for an emergency plumber to sort it out!

School Dinners

Sue Brady is changing her last day for ordering food. It is now Thursday not Friday please ensure that you have your orders in as we are experiencing too many late orders. The most important part of the school dinner ordering system is also for parents to note that **even if your child is in year R or 1 or 2 and you can have your meal for free, these are not automatically sent!** If you have not ordered it your child will not receive it. The reason for this is that the government only pay for those dinners taken up.

Clubs

Please do not leave your child unattended during club sessions. We appear to have lots of children running around the school both inside and out while they wait for siblings to finish clubs. Please ensure that every child is being monitored as school belongings are being broken and children are going missing. Also if your child is waiting for a 4-5pm club slot they either have to go home in between or they must be cared for the hour by an adult. They are not allowed to be in school roaming around on their own. We cannot take responsibility for them.

Finally PARKING

We are having major issues again due the parking of parents outside the school. Every school has difficulty with parking but it causes us quite a lot of upset.

- Please check the legal distance that you MUST leave when parking close to a junction. Are the rules different for you? Do you expect your child to stick to the law? Set an example!
- Please check whether you should park on yellow zigzags. Are the rules different for you? Do you expect your child to stick to the law? Set an example!
- Would you be happy if someone parked in front of your access to the house?

I stand in the car park every morning in order that children can be dropped off easily and safely. Please use this system if you have no reason not to. Then leave the car park following the suggested one way route that helps traffic flow through the village with ease.

Sorry if you think this is a list of moans and you always follow the rules, I will try harder next time to have some lovely things to say

K Spencer

Headteacher