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Message from Miss Talbot

Dear Parents,

At a time when the global threat of Coronavirus (COVID-19) is dominating the news headlines we are ensuring that we are taking all steps necessary to comply with the DfE and Public Health England's expectations for schools. This is a balanced, common sense approach based on ensuring that principles of good personal hygiene are promoted and vigilance and action in line with the guidance in response to the travel activity of those on the school site.

Regular guidance has been provided by both organisations and we will continue to share these with parents in the event of any changes. The last update was sent out via ParentMail last Thursday and included the following link to the Government website <http://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public> The emphasis very much continues to be on self-isolation in the event of any concerns and would urge everyone to ensure that have a clear understanding of this by reading through the latest information.

At the moment coronavirus in the UK is not resulting in the suspension of activity or movement for the majority of the population.

Please continue to encourage your children to hand wash thoroughly on a regular basis. Posters in the school washrooms promote this and the teachers regularly discuss the importance of handwashing with the children. Plentiful supplies of soap and hot water are available.

We will of course update parents in light of any changes via ParentMail.

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Class News...

Sensational Starts to our New Learning Adventures



Year One, started their new Learning Adventure this week with a pirate treasure hunt out on the playground. They helped two pirates to find gold coins hidden in various places. Thankfully no one had to walk the plank! What an exciting way to start a new topic!

House News

Congratulations to all the children who represented their House in last term's House Quizzes. Each quiz included a mix of general knowledge questions ranging from geography, to film trivia, science to literature. All the teams did extremely well but the overall winners for the Lower and Middle School Quiz were Dover with Rochester winning the Upper School Quiz.

The points from the quizzes were added to the overall House Point totals for the term, resulting in victory this term for Dover.

Children in Dover House will be awarded with an extended playtime and squash and biscuits later this week.

Congratulations Dover!

World Book Day

Don't forget that on Thursday 5th March, we will be celebrating World Book Day with various activities taking place in school. We would like to encourage the children to dress up on this day with a 'Heroes and Villains' theme. Staff will be dressing up too.

Class Assemblies

Congratulations to Foxes and Falcons who have recently performed their class assemblies to the school and to parents. It takes a huge amount of courage to stand in front of an audience so I am always immensely proud of the children for taking part in their assemblies. We look forward to Kingfisher's assembly on Friday 6th March and Nightingales on Friday 20th March.



Find Your Brave

Thank you to all the children who have returned their 'Find Your Brave' challenge to school. The children have chosen some really lovely events and experiences to reflect on, occasions when they had to summon bravery and courage.

We are in the process of looking through all of these and will be handing out 'bravery awards' in a few weeks time.

If anyone still has their sheet lurking at home, these can still be handed in until the end of this week.

Charity News

NSPCC



We have enjoyed working with the **NSPCC** over the last few weeks as part of their 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' campaign. As well as delivering assemblies to the children on how to address concerns and worries, **NSPCC** volunteers delivered workshops to our Year 5 and 6 children about personal safety and how to build confidence in talking about any worries they might have. Further details about this campaign can be found at www.nspcc.org.uk/buddy

The **NSPCC**'s work in schools helps to encourage conversations about staying safe and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help parents to carry on these conversations. This includes 'Talk **PANTS**', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from abuse in age appropriate ways and without using scary language. The guide uses the rules of **PANTS** to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resource at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants

The children had great fun joining in with the sponsored 'Hot Lava Challenge' on Friday. They jumped up and down at various intervals during the day to 10 songs played over the tannoy all with a firey theme. Thank you to anyone who has sponsored the children for this event. Please could any money raised be returned to school, along with sponsor forms, on Friday this week.

Further Fundraising

We would like to ask for your help in two further charity fundraising events this term. Please don't think that you must support either of these, I am very conscious of the charity support that has already been given to various events so far this year. The opportunity is simply there if you would like to.

Firstly, we would like to raise awareness of **Sport Relief** which takes place on **Friday 13th March**. All children are able to come into school on this day dressed in sports clothing. Any donations to the charity can be brought in on the day.

Secondly, at the end of March, Mrs Partridge and her husband will be taking part in the London Landmarks Half Marathon, raising money for **Macmillan Cancer Support**. I know from personal experience how much support this charity provides to those diagnosed with cancer and their families. Certainly after my initial diagnosis with breast cancer, the Macmillan team provided excellent support from explaining everything that was going to happen, providing me with information to read, explaining test results and ringing to check how I was doing in between appointments.

All children are invited to wear green to school on **Friday 20th March** the colour of the Macmillan charity. If anyone would like to make a donation to the charity, this can be brought in on the day . We wish Mr and Mrs Partridge well with their run.



Staff News...

Miss Causebrook

We are delighted to share the happy news with you that our Year 1 teacher and Lower School Team Leader, Miss Causebrook is expecting a baby in the summer. Miss Causebrook will be taking maternity leave at the start of July and we are in the process of arranging maternity cover. I am sure that everyone will join me in congratulating Miss Causebrook on this special news.

Headteacher Thank You

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for their continued messages of support and well wishes as I continue with my chemotherapy treatment.

I have now just got three further cycles to go, with my last treatment taking place at the start of April. I then head into four weeks of radiotherapy which will bring treatment to an end in mid May.

I have managed to remain relatively well, albeit very tired throughout my treatment and have been able to keep my hand in at school on a regular basis. I have been into school every week, although I have tried to limit contact with the children to avoid picking up any bugs that might impact on my treatment and have been able to do a fair amount of work from home. Keeping busy has definitely helped me to get through the past few months. I love my job and can't wait to get back in a more permanent capacity.

I have felt very well looked after by all the staff at the Celia Blakey Unit at the William Harvey Hospital who do a fantastic job and very well supported by our school community. I know how lucky I am.

Other News..

PTFA News

Thank you to everyone for all the donations to the PTFA Mothers' Day Present Shop. Please remember that if you would like your child to be involved in selecting a Mothers' Day gift to bring home, slips must be returned to school by Friday 13th March. The Mothers' Day shop will take place on Wednesday 18th March.

We have a non uniform day on Friday 27th March. This is in return for any Easter egg donations to the Easter Bingo which takes place on Saturday 28th March.

Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped out at the school disco before half term. Your help is very much appreciated.

You will notice that new blue tables and benches are being erected around school. These have been purchased with funds raised by the PTFA and will be very welcomed by the children at playtime.

Thank you to our committee for all their fundraising efforts. It is very much appreciated.

Other Reminders...

Fruit and Vegetable Snacks

Please remember that as of this term, the children will only be able to bring fruit and vegetables (fresh or dried) into school for break time snacks. Fruit winders of fruit yogurts etc are no longer permitted.

Other News and Reminders...

- Please remember that tracksuit bottoms are only part of school uniform for children in Year R. all other children should wear trousers, shorts, dresses, skirts or pinafores. Trainer type shoes can be worn as long as they are plain black with no lines, logos or markings and that hair bows should be small and in school colours only. Thank you.
- School reports will be sent home with the children on Tuesday 17th March. This is a longer, more detailed report which expands on progress and attainment. Book viewing takes place on Thursday 19th March and the online booking for parent consultation appointments opens on Friday 20th March.
- Don't forget that cycling or scootering is not permitted on the school grounds. Please push bikes and scooters as you enter the site. We would also ask that parents remind children that they should take care with how they cycle outside the school grounds and would encourage bikes and scooters to be pushed up the Chimney's footpath.



Sports Report

Year 3 Cricket

Just before half term, our Year 3 Rapid Fire Cricket team took part in a tournament against twelve other Ashford schools at the Stour Centre. The children used the skills they had developed through their recent cricket training to gain a fourth place finish. The children demonstrated an excellent understanding of the game and showed superb sportsmanship throughout the course of the afternoon. Well done to all those who took part.

Year 6 Speed Stacking

Godinton was also successful in a Speed Stacking competition at Highworth School last week. Our team of four Year 6 children worked exceptionally hard in the competition which assesses the speed by which they can stack and unstack a set of 12 cups in various sequences. Not as easy as you might think. The team came 6th out of the 12 participating schools. Congratulations all the children involved whose excellent behaviour throughout the competition was also highlighted by the accompanying staff.

