

Friday 10th January 2020

Dear all,

I hope you have all had a happy Christmas and New Year. The children have come back telling us about the lovely family activities they have enjoyed. They are well rested and have started their new topics this week. Last term was a whole school topic all about caring for our world. This term's topics are Ei Ei Dough – Oaks and Acorns, It's Good to be Me – Sycamore and Rowan, See you at the Battle – Cherry and Willow, The Terrible Tudors – Beech and Maple.

However, we haven't forgotten everything we did last term and we are still collecting our crisp packets to support the charity Ellie's Fund, we still collect used stamps, envelopes and postcards for the Catholic Children's Society and also this term we are taking part in a plastic protest. This is where we are collecting all the plastic wrapping which our free fruit for Reception and KS1 is sent in and we will be sharing it with the politicians to show how much unnecessary plastic is used each week.

PTA events

This month the PTA have paid for a theatre group to come into school and put on a performance for all the children. It is the money you spend at the Christmas Fairs, film nights, discos etc that pay for events like this. Last term the money raised was spent on the anti-bullying workshops and the recycling workshops which were both a great success and offer extra enrichment to the curriculum provided by school. Thank you to the PTA and also to all the parents for your continued support.

School dinners

Many thanks to everyone for getting on board with the new system whereby lunch must be ordered and paid for by 9am each day. As a request please can I ask that you either choose the menu with your child or you tell them what you have ordered for them. We have had a few children saying they don't want what has been ordered and we have had to say we're sorry but that is what has been selected by your parent so that is what you need to have. You can change the selection until 9am each morning, so if your child says they don't want the previously chosen option you can still alter it.

Uniform

Please can I remind you that the school uniform is black shoes not boots or trainers. Please inform the teacher if there is a reason why your child is not wearing the correct shoes.

Calm Zone - Childline

Childline has launched Calm Zone - an online hub of calming techniques and resources for children to help them feel better when they feel anxious, scared or sad. The activities are easy to access for different ages. Please see the website for more information - <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

Support sessions

We work very closely with the other local schools and we have emailed home with this newsletter the list of parent support sessions that are running at Withycombe on a Friday afternoon this half term. These are excellent, free of charge sessions covering a range of topics to help with various different aspects of behaviour.

Next week:

Monday 13th January – English session at ECC, Beech Class

Tuesday 14th January – Roman Day, Willow and Cherry Class

Friday 17th January - 'We've Got This' workshop on anxiety, Beech Class

Thursday 23rd January - 'Space Cats' Boo to a Goose theatre production

Thursday 23rd January – Yr. 6 SATs talk for parents, 5.15pm

Friday 24th January - Athletics event, group from Year 5&6 at the Tennis Centre

Best wishes & many thanks for your continued support**Mrs Taylor-Bashford****Headteacher's Awards:** Rowan – Daisy, Jack, Shiloh, Cohen, Finley, Damian, Beech - Oliver**Silver Awards:** Willow - Zaylea**Bronze Awards:** FSU – Theo, Isabelle, Douglas, Jude, Rowan – Isla, Finley, Tilly-Rose, Noah, Willow – Azi, Holly, Maple – Archie, Beech - Nathan**Stars of the week:** Oak – Evan, Rowan – Tilly-Rose, Sycamore - Archie, Cherry – Lilly & Harry, Willow – George, Maple – Sophie, Beech – Millie**Breakfast Club Star of the week:** FSU – Olivia L