

22nd October 2020

Dear Parents,

It seems almost unbelievable that we are already at half term – the weeks have simply flown by. The children have produced some lovely work and, from what I have been able to share, are really engaged in their learning. There is a lovely buzz around the school. The children have also been collecting house points at some rate – last week Tower took the lead with 1312 points so far. Orchard are in second place only ten points ahead of Beacon, with Windmill not far behind. Well done to everyone – keep trying hard and remembering to put up the points gained. Several classes have celebrated having the most respect cards each week with some additional time outside. Well done to them too. Our values tree in the hall is also gaining leaves – these are celebrated in class before being added to the tree. Within the restrictions we are making every effort to continue to celebrate all the important parts of school life. Almost all the children will bring home their behaviour certificate tomorrow, celebrating the good choices they have made this half term. There is no reply slip this time, but please acknowledge in your child's home school book/planner that you have discussed their behaviour choices with them. Thank you. Reward time in class groups will be given after half term.

Year 6 have been fortunate to meet virtually with staff from Waddesdon Manor, who explained to the children about bulb planting. We had hoped that the children may have been able to visit the Manor to help their staff with the spring displays. Sadly this was not possible this year, so – with many thanks to the parents generosity – the children have been planting bulbs around the school grounds. They still have more to do, but the spring display here should be amazing!

At this time of year I would usually hold an assembly about Halloween and speak with the children about being safe. This message is even more important this year and, as I am unable to hold an assembly, we will share with the children tomorrow the importance of not going out to 'trick or treat' this year. I know that Slapton children have a treasure hunt walk planned, but I am not sure if Cheddington have arranged something similar. Please do encourage your children to enjoy the season and the treats from home in a safe manner. The joys of such celebrations are important not to lose at this time, but it is also important that we do so in as safe a manner as possible.

On this note, not as the papers announced that 'Christmas was cancelled', we are already looking at how we can celebrate safely with the children. Obviously, an old style Key Stage performance will not be possible, but we have exciting plans for Y2. We will keep you informed. We are also looking at the safe management of a Christmas post – which may require a longer time period.

Prior to that our annual Act of Remembrance will be held for the children on 11th November. It would be unwise to do so on the village green, and we are not able to invite you to join us. However the children will mark the occasion appropriately, either at social distance on the playground if dry, or coming together virtually in school if wet. Sadly, the British Legion have informed us that we are not able to offer poppies in school. If the children have one, they are welcome to wear this between 2nd and 11th November inclusively.

The staff were pleased to 'meet' with you over recent days for our Parent Consultation appointments. Thank you for working with us as we explored new technology to enable these meetings to happen in a safe way. I hope you found the meetings informative and constructive.

Mrs Bradford, a member of the PTA committee, has now taken over the second-hand uniform shop from Mrs Poulson. I would like to thank Mrs Poulson for all her hard work in managing this most useful offer by the PTA over recent years. Mrs Bradford is happy to share her contact number with you should you be interested in any items. She can be contacted on 07766102732.

Buckinghamshire Council have launched a public consultation about school transport. This will run until 7th December 2020 and any changes implemented will be for the academic year 2021/22. This can be accessed at <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/schools/htst-2021-consultation>

Please do take time to respond to this as it does affect us in the village. Thank you.

Attached to this letter is information from MK Dons about opportunities for the children next week; and information from Aylesbury Music Centre regarding involvement in ensembles. If these are of interest please do note them.

I hope you enjoy some time with your children next week. They are tired and ready for a break. I hope the weather may be kind to us.

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher