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Dear Parents/Carers

It's hard to believe that, as we move towards the end of the Autumn term, we are already a third of the way through the school year! Time seems to move so quickly in our school and this is largely due to the fact that almost all children are focussed on their learning all of the time and are genuinely enjoying school. As the saying goes, you can't please everyone all of the time, but now that we are studying our knowledge based subject curriculum, it appears that we are the closest we've ever been to proving that old saying wrong!

Thinking about the curriculum, I don't think I've ever seen such deep learning in all subjects and by all children in any of my 20 years of working in schools. Our super inquisitive children have really grasped this new way of learning with both hands and they certainly know more than they ever have and are definitely transferring skills across a whole range of subjects. Whilst it would be impossible to mention everything that our children have studied over the last 13 weeks, certain aspects of the children's study have really impressed me: class 3's in depth knowledge and understanding of tectonic plates and resultant volcanoes and mountains; class 2's historical research into Samuel Pepys and Matthew Flinders; class 1's study of their own family history and their local geography. It just goes to how capable and brilliant our children can aspire to be!

Many thanks must go to the PTFA and, you, the parents, in supporting our school through thick and thin. Once again, the PTFA have excelled in putting on high class events this term, notably the Hallowe’en disco and the Christmas Fayre. Furthermore, they have also had a supporting presence at the recent Class 1 nativity. It is wonderful to have such a hard-working and cohesive team that provide so many rich opportunities for all the children and families within out school. However, without the support of our families in these events, they would not be as enjoyable or productive. Thanks in advance for your future support.

Finally – it’s almost Christmas! I hope you all enjoyed our Nativity performance and Christingle service. Many parents and staff have commented how well the children performed and behaved in both of these events and it is pleasing that year on year our children are improving in all areas of their school life. Without doubt, this has been the best Autumn term I have spent at the school and, not only is the time spent in school always purposeful and calm, but also our children are an absolute delight whenever we have visitors or take them off site. Credit to all the staff and parents for working so well together to ensure that we can all continue to contribute effectively to the happiness and learning of all the children in our care.

**Swimming**

Starting on Monday January 13th, Years 4, 5 and 6 will be attending the swimming pool in Spalding for swimming lessons. Children will be leaving at 10:30 and returning to school for their lunchtime. Please ensure that your child has their named swimming kit, a towel and suitable bag every Monday. We appreciate that some children do not enjoy swimming as much as some other lessons, or may not be as confident as they would like to be, and this means they have negative emotions about the participation in swimming lessons. As long as we know, we will always support you and your children to overcome these barriers to what is a governmental requirement that children should learn to swim 25m by the time they leave primary school. If children are well enough to attend school, **then they will be expected to attend their swimming lesson.** Please help us to help your child achieve their full potential in all areas of the National Curriculum by communicating with us at all times.

**NHS advice**

Please see the attached advice regarding minor symptoms and/or respiratory tract infections. This one page guide can help families get to see the right person in the right place for the right symptoms. It is also available on our website.

**Dates**

January 6th – Start of Spring Term 1

January 13th – Swimming starts for Years 4-6

January 20th – Parent questionnaires out

January 22nd – Height and Weight Reception and Y6

January 24th – Parent questionnaires in

February 7th – Hockey tournament after school

February 13th – PTFA Valentine’s cake sale

February 13th - end of Spring Term 1

February 24th – Start of Spring Term 2

March 3rd/4th – Parents Evenings

March 5th – World Book Day

March 9-13 – Sport Relief Week

March 19th – Mums in for reading 2-3pm

March 20th – PTFA Mothers’ day sale

April 2nd – Easter Service

April 2nd – end of Spring Term 2

HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!