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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the second part of the Autumn Term!

We continue to be proud, but not surprised, by the children's determination to succeed even in these very different times. The busy school day gives the children the opportunity to put the current worldwide woes to one side and focus on learning and friendships. We would all like to thank you for supporting the children's important education and social development by continuing to bring them to school and most children's attendance is as good as or even better than it normally would be. It's a good job, because there's plenty to catch up on from last year!

We'd love everything to go back to normal as soon as possible, but this still seems quite some time off. I hope that the announcements below show that we are trying really hard to give all the children as normal an experience as possible while making sure that we are all safe at all times.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day, rightly, is always a major part of this term for us. It is an important time for children to remember great sacrifice and reflect on how and why we can all make the world a better place. Unfortunately, we cannot attend the church service that we normally do, nor have we opted to sell poppies this year. However, we have put other events and activities in place to ensure that the message is still delivered and discussed in a meaningful way. By Wednesday, each class will have had two assemblies to discuss and learn about Remembrance Day, plus all children have contributed to a class display. On Wednesday, we will observe a minute's silence at 11:00 and we will also provide poppy stickers to each child. If anyone would like to send a donation in – the amount you would normally spend on a poppy – we will collect this in a Covid secure way and ensure it gets to the Royal British Legion. Even though things are different, we're still trying to do our bit in school!

Children in Need

This Friday, November 13th, is Children in Need day and, again, we have considered how we can recognise and contribute to this worthwhile charity. On Friday, all classes will hold an assembly to discuss the charity and the work they do from both a national and international perspective (age appropriate, of course). We are happy for children to come to school wearing something yellow or spotty (or both!) to show their support for the cause. Again, any donations will be received and stored in a Covid secure way. We would also like to continue with our theme of covering Pudsey in small change. This year, though, we will not be able to cover one, large Pudsey, so we have opted for 3 smaller Pudseys, one in each class. Hopefully we will get enough change to decorate each Pudsey in a unique way!

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Homework and Remote Learning

Thanks to all of you who have engaged with Seesaw. As with parents and children, some of the staff are more skilled than others at using this software, so please bear with us while we all get used to the system. I personally had a bit of a disaster with this week's homework! We fully appreciate how trying homework and remote learning can be at the best of times so if you let us know your struggles, we will do everything we can to help you and your children to access the learning.

As this is one of the tools we have at our disposal for supporting the learning of those children who are isolating, it is vital that it is working correctly for as many families as possible. If you are having any issues, however slight, please either add these to Seesaw or contact the school.

Hot School Lunches

We will be offering hot lunches again by the end of November. We are currently finalising our plans with regard to this and a letter will follow with full details in the next few days.

Surfs + School shop

As you will remember (or just be finding out if you are a parent of a Reception child), Surfs are our main reward system in school. Traditionally, these were given out (like bank notes) to children for upholding our core values and completing high quality work. Whilst we cannot actually give out the Surfs for the children to keep and bank, we have still been giving out Surfs as rewards. As you can imagine, many children have now collected quite a few Surfs and are becoming 'rich'. I am pleased to report that we are going to be opening the shop once every three weeks in each classroom. We will be limiting purchases to 'essential items' such as pencils, pens, rubbers, etc. which the children will be able to use for their homework and remote learning if needs be. This is another welcome step closer to what school used to be like last year and I am sure this will create much excitement!

Celebration Assembly

Another important part of our school week used to be the celebration assembly every Friday. Whilst we cannot all meet together in the hall and invite parents in, we are going to try and hold these assemblies 'remotely' with children watching from their classrooms. We intend is to give out the same rewards: child of the week certificates, reading certificates, Surf winners, etc. and publish these to our website.

Keeping Safe

I just wanted to finish this newsletter with a thank you to all of those parents and guardians who follow the rules whilst collecting and dropping off their children. We all work really hard during school time to ensure that all of the children and staff know and follow the rules and keep safe. The children have been really impressive in how they have taken these strict rules seriously and as long as we continue to follow our guidance we will be able to maintain as safe a school environment as possible.

Kind regards



Mr R Chipperfield
Head of School

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