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9/1/26

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome back, and a very Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a joyful Christmas break and that the children are feeling refreshed and ready for the term ahead—despite the chilly weather! As we begin this term, we continue to feel the loss of Mrs Higgins deeply. However, we remain united as a school community and are delighted to see the children back. We look forward to supporting their experiences and learning throughout the coming months.

Thank You

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your incredibly generous Christmas cards and gifts that we received last term. Your kindness is really appreciated.

In memory of Mrs Higgins

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who laid flowers in tribute to Mrs Higgins. It was a beautiful gesture, and her family visited and found great comfort in your kindness. We have carefully kept all the cards that accompanied the flowers and will be giving them, along with the drawings and creations made by the children in her honour, to Chris Higgins.

Thank you for your understanding and support in our decision to close the school on Friday 16th January for Mrs Higgins' funeral. Our Year 6 children will be performing a song, and a recording of their singing will be played during the service. In place of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to this charity: <https://www.bliss.org.uk/>, a cause very close to Mrs Higgins' heart.

Additionally, the PTA have also received donations in her memory, which we plan to use to create a memorial garden in the paddock area at the front of the school. This garden will include a bench, a plaque and a cherry tree as a lasting tribute to Mrs Higgins.

Phonics Lesson for Parents in Wrens and Jays Class

If you have a child in Wrens or Jays class, you are warmly invited to come in and watch a phonics session on Wednesday 25th February at 9:15 am. Mrs Morgan and Mrs Gooderham are teaching a normal lesson, and this is designed to give you insight into how phonics is taught in school and to provide you with strategies to support your child's learning at home. There is no need to book—simply wait by the Wrens' classroom door, and a member of staff will sign you in.

Waterproof Clothing

Our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) initiative is progressing well, and we are very grateful to all parents who have provided waterproofs for their children. Waterproofs are essential for allowing the children to fully access and enjoy the school field, mud kitchen, and other outdoor play areas regardless of the weather. Without them, children may miss out on valuable opportunities for outdoor learning and play, which are central to the OPAL approach. We kindly ask that all children



come to school equipped with waterproofs so they can participate safely and comfortably in all aspects of our outdoor provision.

Parent Celebration Assembly and Mental Health Workshop

We are pleased to invite parents and family to our Celebration Assembly on Friday 6th February at 9:15am. Following the assembly, there will be a short workshop focused on Mental Health, delivered by a representative from Kooth <https://connect.kooth.com>. This session aims to provide valuable insights and support for families. Please note that booking is required for the workshop, and we will need a minimum of 8 parents to attend for the session to go ahead. Please book here: [Parental Workshop - Mental Health](#).

Term Dates 2026-27

Our term dates for 2026-27 are on the website (click [here](#)). We kindly ask that holidays are not taken during term time, as consistent attendance is crucial for your child's learning and progress. Taking time off during the school term can disrupt their education and affect their ability to keep up with the curriculum.

Clubs

Clubs will resume in the week starting 2nd February 2026. We will share the schedule with you in a couple of weeks, allowing time for you to sign up.

Congratulations

Finally, we extend our warmest congratulations to Miss Warren and Mr Miller on their engagement. What a wonderful way to end last term! The 'secret' choir sang beautifully, and it was truly special to share in that memorable moment of the proposal during the carols around the tree.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher