

11 December 2020

Dear parents/carers,

What a busy half term this has been! Lots of fantastic learning has taken place across KS2 and we are looking forward to our final week with the children before the Christmas break. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support in helping the children with their learning and keeping our school environment safe. We hope you have a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year.

### **Key diary dates for Spring 1**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January** – Training Day (children not in school)

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January** – Children return to school

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February** – Bikeability training for Y5/6

### **PE dates**

The PE timetable will alter half-termly as Premier Sport will be rotating which classes they support. Children are able to come to school in their PE kits on their PE days and when they are attending after school PE clubs.

**Sycamore:** Monday and Friday

**Hazel:** Monday and Thursday

**Larch:** Monday and Wednesday

**Oak:** Wednesday and Friday

### **Swimming**

Unfortunately due to the national lockdown, our Year 4 pupils were unable to have their swimming lessons this half term. These have been rearranged for Friday afternoons during Spring 2. More information on this will follow after Christmas.

### **Trips**

Unfortunately, we had to cancel a couple of trips this half term. The Year 6 residential (planned for 2021) had to be cancelled due to government guidance and the Year 4 visit to West Stowe (due to take place in November) was cancelled due to the national lockdown. We are keen to arrange trips and visits for the children and will continue to plan activities for the children, in line with the latest guidance.

We are so pleased that our Year 3 children were able to take part in a Stone Age to Iron Age workshop on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Widget Workshops delivered their session to the children at school. The children had a fantastic day and especially enjoyed using the virtual reality headsets, where they were able to see a woolly mammoth and some Stone Age artwork.

### **Sports Events**

Local competitions went virtual this term and the Year 5 and 6 children competed in a virtual athletics competition against the rest of the county. Children completed the activities in their PE lessons and the top scores were submitted to the local sports partnership.

Within school, we held our first intra-school competition in our new sports houses. The children took part in a dance competition within their bubbles, with the top three groups earning points for their houses. Next week, children will take part in an intra-school orienteering competition with a Christmas theme.

We are unsure whether competitions will take place locally next half term but we continue you to engage with the local sports partnership to enter virtual competitions.

### **Santa Challenge**

Thank you to everyone who has made a fantastic effort for our Santa Challenge. It has been great to see more children walking, scooting and cycling to school for this challenge.

We hope that these active journeys to school will continue after Christmas when we will start our Tokyo Challenge and our virtual journey from Bedfordshire to the Olympic Games. More information will follow after the Christmas break.

### **Fundraising**

Thank you so much for everyone who purchased poppies and stationery this year as part of the Poppy Appeal. Although the format was different this year, with items sold in individual classes, it was great to see lots of money raised. We also enjoyed seeing all the spotty outfits for Children in Need. We were so proud of the children for their reflectiveness and generosity towards others in need, when we know that it has been a difficult time for everyone this year.

### **Road Safety Week**

On a rather wet Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November, our KS2 classes set off on their road safety walks up Green Lane. We wanted to focus on this road in particular as it leads on to the school site. We looked at traffic systems in place and suggested possible areas for improvement. We discussed how by reducing the number of cars on site, we could make the school site safer for children and their families. In class, children created posters and letters to share their findings and considered their role in making Wixams' roads safer,

### **Music**

This half term, Year 5 have been fortunate to have been loaned ukuleles from the local council. They have enjoyed weekly sessions with a local music teacher (who recorded all her sessions and sent these to the school to use). Children in Year 4 have been visited by a music teacher weekly and have been using ipads to create music. Next half term, children in Year 3 will be having singing lessons from a specialist in the hall on Thursday mornings. Keyboards have also been loaned to the school for Year 6 to use in their music lessons in class.

### **Christmas**

Although we have not been able to hold our Christmas carol concert this year, the children have been very busy. All children in KS2 have made cards for the residents at Wixams Retirement Centre. Our children in Year 6 also made some Christmas books for the reception children. Children will be having a Christmas party in their classes next week. Keep your eyes peeled on the school website to see what else we are doing.

### **Online Learning**

No work will be set over the Christmas break but children will still have access to Purple Mash, Spelling Shed and TTR should they wish to use these. Please remember that weekly homework during term time is set using Purple Mash and must be submitted on here. Children have also been set half-termly take home tasks that should also be handed in using Purple Mash.

### **Reporting**

Next week your child will bring home a printed report. This will contain information on their attainment and effort in: Maths, writing, reading and Science. More information will be included with their reports.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Keep safe!

From Miss Bygraves and the KS2 team