



Dear Parents,

**Half term-** Well done to all children, staff and parents for managing to work so successfully, at all levels, since returning in September. Our Attendance is at a staggering 96.8%, one of the highest locally. We have had many successes and some tribulations and frustrations along the way, but your children have made great progress from their starting points. Some do not always see that - some lack that self-belief, some are naturally modest; some always look on the negative side of things - an unhealthy trait we are really working on to dispel. Others are full of pride. Reflect back to where we were in June and be really proud of your children and tell them; we are.

**Co-Vid-** We have had one reported positive case of the virus in our school community, this week. The individual is taking care and knows that they are in our thoughts and prayers. Already, there is some positive progress with alleviation in their symptoms. This has resulted in some necessary quarantining; thank you to all parents who have been really supportive - accessing their children's work; working with them and feeding back to staff. It really is so important to be team players. Thank you also to school staff for responding rapidly to the need to work differently and isolate where necessary.

**Parents Consultations and Inset Day – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November.** After half term, we will be posting opportunities, throughout the day, on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November, for parents to sign up to either a Teams Meeting or a phone call with their child's class teacher. Staff will be able to talk for 10 minutes. The conversation will be based on an agenda which we will send out prior to the day and will be a great chance for staff to share areas of strength and areas to develop with you. Please do not be offended when they have to finish the conversation, to move on to the next parent. No one child is more or less important than another. All need equal chances to discuss these important targets for the future.

## Reminders

**School uniform-** As we move into the winter months, please remember that children will now need to be in full uniformities, shirts, cardigans and jumpers. Please see attached details for your convenience. Any genuine need for deviation from the school uniform will need to be shared with the HT appropriately. We look forward to your full support again - making SMA the smart, equal, fair, school it has always been.

**The school twitter account continues to grow.** We now have 90 followers- that represents more than half of all families.

**Our Y5 Animal Man** has been rescheduled for the first week back - so that is something for Y5 to look forward to. Ok Ruby? 😊

**Virtual P.E challenges** – Oh dear... what a shame! Only one class, Y3, managed to submit their results this time round. From being one of the best schools, we are now way down in the league tables. Come on parents and children (and staff) this is a fitness challenge which fully supports wellbeing. Teach your children how to help themselves by being fit and healthy. Well done Y3!

**Thanks to the PTA** for their helpful newsletter, sent out last week- and attached again here for your reference.

**Y6 parents – final reminder that that Secondary School Admissions close on 31<sup>st</sup> October.** Please make sure that you are fully informed and that your child does not miss out. Speak with Mrs Ward or Mrs Potter if you are uncertain about what to do.

## Other news ...

- **Democratic decision making linked to good behaviour-** £5 awards went to Y4 for resilience and Y3 for behaviour this week. Well done to these two classes.
- **Our e safety crew** have introduced themselves on class pages. Watch out for regular updates from them moving into the next half term.
- **Our Harvest Offering** reached a fabulous £242 – thank you very much, on behalf of CAFOD and Fr Hudson's Homes.
- **The Poppy Appeal is now open** - and already has £16 in it, via the Gateway. Our Y6 Gardening Monitors are investigating some poppy symbols for classes, next month. Thank you to them.
- **School Photographs-** 12pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October (this Sunday) is the deadline to order your school photographs online, with free delivery. Any cash or cheque orders can be received in school until Friday 6/11/20, at the latest.
- **Toast-** can now be paid for, for next half term, using the School gateway at £1 a week.
- **Communication with staff-** Thank you for listening and working with us, in these difficult times. Your professional, constructive emails and comments are genuinely important to us. The more you share, the more we can support - and vice versa.

**And Finally...** We hope that you have a safe, virus free half term and look forward to seeing you back on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.**

***“Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another”***