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Friday 19th March 2021

Head Teacher's newsletter

Dear Families,

I hope you are all continuing to keep safe and well.

Children's assessments:

This week class teachers and the children across the school have been working together to complete assessments in Reading, Writing and Maths. I want to say well done to the children as they have worked really hard on these. These assessments will give the teachers much needed information as to where the children are in their learning journeys. The teachers are now busily collating the results and analysing this data across their year groups to identify any gaps that will need to be addressed going forward. Next week they will be meeting with senior leaders and myself to discuss learning strategies and how the assessment data should be used to target any additional support. The teachers will discuss this amongst other things when they speak with you at the parental consultation appointments which are due to happen just after the Easter break.

Easter fun:

By now you will have received the letter advertising our Easter Egg Fun week starting on 29th March and running all through that week for various age groups. We have also already started selling the raffle tickets for the amazing Easter hampers. This has attracted a lot of interest which we are delighted about as the more money we make the more playground improvements we can build for the children. Please watch out for Ms Panzu and Ms Khaleeq who will be selling the tickets each morning and afternoon near the school entrance. You have to be in it to win it folks! Tickets cost £1 each.

New Pathway:

I just wanted to update you on the idea of building a pathway to provide a new access point to the school from Falmouth Gardens. This is something that I have mentioned before and we are now in the final stages of putting together. I have contacted Redbridge Council Highways department to consult on this and have been talking to local building companies to gain quotes for this work. The main idea is to create a new main entrance to the school where the current fire gates are and build a pathway across the field. This would alleviate traffic congestion and the current problems we have on College Gardens as this creates a bottle neck situation and we have had near misses and some accidents reported because of the tight nature of where the current entrance to the school is located. In addition, we are constantly being contacted by our neighbours complaining about inconsiderate parking by some parents.

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Achievement certificates:

I am delighted that we will be awarding achievement certificates to the children on Fridays again. This is something we did successfully last term and I will be reading out the children's names in a virtual assembly each Friday and the children will bring the certificates home.

I also introduced my birthday wish slips last term which were extremely popular with the children, but this had to be suspended because of lock down so I will be re-introducing this from next week also. Unfortunately, all those children whose birthdays fell during the lockdown period will not receive a slip this year but I want to wish them all a very happy late birthday and hope that they could celebrate it in some way.

Attendance update:

I am delighted to report that attendance since we returned to full schooling has been wonderful and I am further pleased that the children do still seem to be genuinely delighted to be back with their teachers and their friends. Last week our attendance was 96% and we are on course for this to be 96% this week too. Well done to everyone!

Friday early closure:

Thank you for your patience with this change to the school day on Fridays which will continue at least until the Easter break and then will definitely be reviewed. Subject to the government guidance being amended in regards to children's bubbles and social distancing in school settings we are hoping to return to normal timings after the break. However, I must stress that this is completely dependent on that guidance being changed. Please note, the first Friday back (23rd April) will be an early closure regardless of guidance changes as this is to facilitate our parent teacher consultations.

National day of remembrance:

On the 23rd March, the first anniversary of the first UK lockdown, we will have the opportunity as a nation to think about the many people who have lost their lives as well as the many families who have had to grieve alone.

At 11:15am our school will observe a minute's silence to support those who have been bereaved. During the school day, children will create paper flowers - daffodils, tulips and crocuses (or other spring flowers) that they will display on classroom windows as a symbol of hope for the future. We will also decorate the tress in our school with yellow ribbons on which the children will write the name of somebody they care about or who is really special to them.

Head Teacher's accessibility:

I am sure by now you know that I like the leadership of the school to be visible and accessible both to children and parents. With this in mind, the senior leadership team and I will continue to be in the playground most mornings and most afternoons at drop off and collection times, and if there is anything you want to discuss with us please come and catch us. We always have time to listen and talk with you.

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Other ways to contact me or any of the SLT is to email via the admin@redbridgeprimary.redbridge.sch.uk marking for the attention of....

Finally, I would like you to join me in saying a huge thank you to the Redbridge school cleaning and premises teams who are literally the unsung heroes of our school. They are often working extra hours at the moment in order to deep clean and keep our school safe for all who come here. The school is cleaned and maintained to a very high standard and it is because of these wonderful people.

Please enjoy a relaxing and safe weekend with your families and I look forward to seeing you all again safe and sound, on Monday morning.

Very best wishes,

Steve Davies (Head Teacher)

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