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Head Teacher: Mr A McCoy

20<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wow! What a busy half term. It's been a great start to the year with lots going on all around school. So I thought this would be a great opportunity to bring you up to date on a number of things.

Parents' Evenings are taking place this week for all classes. Please can you enter school via the main entrance; Prefects will be available to guide you to the classrooms if needed. There are some spaces left for each teacher, so remember to book using the online system. Please could I request that we keep to our 10 minute time slots – further meetings can be booked with the class teachers at a mutually convenient time.

Please remember that school is closed on Friday for a staff Inset Day, and then we have half term with children returning back on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

We had our first class assembly (3B) last Friday – they were amazing! Thank you to all the parents who attended, I'm sure that you agree that the children were confident and put on a great assembly. The next one is 5M on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November – further details to follow.

We are currently using various ways to communicate with parents and carers. We have our website which is kept up to date. This has several useful sections; firstly, you can access the school calendar from the homepage. You can also find out what's been going on by visiting the 'news', the 'gallery' and the 'events' pages – links to these are at the bottom of the homepage. School Spider, our website designers, have launched a free app. From smartphones or tablets search your app provider for 'School Spider' and download the relevant app. We also have our Facebook page and our Twitter feed. We will continue to produce our fortnightly newsletter, which is available to do download from the website, or you can collect a paper copy from the office each time it is produced – the next newsletter will be available on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. We will also continue to send relevant messages home via letters such as this, on a Tuesday and a Friday. Our school text service proves to be very popular with parents and we will continue to use this system; however we are charged by our provider for every single text we send out and with nearly 400 families this is proving to be an expensive option for us.

Thank you to the parents who were able to make the recent Head's Forum on behaviour. We are currently reviewing the school's Behaviour Policy and will make the updated version available to you once the process is completed. The next Head's Forum will be an Open Forum – this will give parents the opportunity to come along and discuss a variety of topics. Further details will be sent out after half term.

Following on from our homework forums we will be sending out details of our new system after half term. We have tried to accommodate many of the parental comments as well as those we received from the children.

Since the start of term we have been addressing and focussing on the quality and presentation of children's work in their books and displays around school, and what an improvement! Children are taking a much greater pride in their own work and the standard is improving rapidly. Children in Years 5 & 6 are now working towards being presented with a handwriting pen to write with, rather than continuing to use a pencil – I have already handed out a number of handwriting pens which is very pleasing, well done.

Attendance - The Educational Welfare Service continues to support us to improve our school attendance and reduce the number of pupils arriving into school late. Please assist us by having children in school and on time. Lessons start promptly each morning and it is proving difficult for children to catch up when they arrive late and the lesson has already started. Your co-operation is very much appreciated.

And finally - I would like to develop a 'Builders Yard' in the Early Years section of school. This will further improve our outdoor provision and enable some unique and great learning opportunities. But in order to do this I need your help. Do you have any spare paving slabs (we need about 30!) that you would be able to donate to school? Do you have the skills and spare time to lay the paving slabs for us? Do you have a small child's shed that you would be willing to donate to the project? If you can assist us in any way please contact me via the school office – any help would be very much appreciated and I'm sure our younger children in school would be really pleased too.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr A. McCoy  
Headteacher