



Irthington Village School
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Headteacher Lynn Harrison

Tuesday 8th December 2020

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of what can only be described as a most challenging and unprecedented year, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support.

This autumn term has been like no other. However, despite the hygiene practises, the distancing measures and the restrictions we have had to adhere to, I am proud to say that school has felt like an oasis of normality in the chaos of fear and uncertainty that we are all trying to live with.

The children have been a delight and a tonic. They came back to school in September with an eagerness and desire to learn and this is so evident in their daily lessons. Attendance has been excellent as is behaviour.

We have just completed our autumn term assessments and comparisons with the baselines from September demonstrate really pleasing, and in many cases, exceptional progress. We will use this data to further inform our spring term planning and we will continue to identify and address any gaps in learning.

With news of a vaccine, we are optimistically and tentatively planning for a return to some of the routines and activities that have been thus far restricted; the annual residential is booked for June, we will reschedule swimming and are looking forward to an Easter service in church with hymns and songs abound!

Ruth and the PTA have done a sterling job of fundraising through the Co-op schemes, the Hamper Prize Draw and the Virtual Balloon Race. The money raised last year has already paid for the homework books, the new maths scheme, new picnic benches and 8 new Laptops! Again this could not happen without the support of all our families, so thank you!

We are currently looking to fill spaces for the role of Parent Governor on the Governing Board and have had some expressions of interest. Anyone wishing to be considered for the role needs to be nominated by two other people, who are not family members. Please can we have all completed nomination forms handed into school by this coming Friday 11th December.

In the New Year we are planning a Parents' Evening. What format this will take will depend on the guidelines at the time, however, we do hope to see you in school sometime soon!

With Christmas just around the corner, some of you may have seen on social media that the hospital is unable to put up Christmas decorations but would be allowed to put up laminated pictures, which could be sanitised. The pupils at Irthington rose to the challenge and everyone drew or coloured in pictures, which were laminated and sent off to the Cumberland Infirmary. I am pleased to say that they are now on display and have brought some Christmas cheer to some of the wards!

As we near the end of the Autumn Term here is a reminder of upcoming events for your diary:

Friday 11th December 2020 – **Class Christmas parties** – Each class will hold their own party, including lots of fun activities and games, as well as a virtual message from a special person. Each child will be sent home with their Christmas gift and a party bag. Please send your child/ren into school with their party clothes in a bag so that they can get changed after lunch.

Monday 14th December 2020 – **End of Balloon Race and Raffle Drawing** – Parents are invited to attend at the end of school for the drawing of the raffle and for the announcement of the winner of the Balloon Race in the school yard. We would ask that social distancing rules are adhered to by those attending.

Wednesday 16th December 2020 – **School Christmas Lunch** – If your child would like to have the Christmas Lunch this can be booked online or booked by your child in class on the day.

Friday 18th December 2020 – **School Closes for the Christmas Break** – Please note that we close at 2pm.

Tuesday 5th January 2021 – **School Re-Opens for Spring Term**

Friday 15th January 2021 – **Deadline for Applications for Places in Reception Year to start in September 2021** – Applications can be made online up until Friday 15th January 2021 or completed forms can be handed into the school office but must be received before this date to ensure that we have sufficient time to submit them.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the team at Irthington, to wish everyone a fun filled and relaxing Christmas and a happy and healthy 2021.

Best wishes,

Lynn Harrison