

Hawkinge Primary School

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Friday 8th December

Dear Parents,

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 this week have been very active! On Tuesday they were lucky enough to attend a Boogie Bounce Workshop in the school hall. The children were taught to bounce and dance (simultaneously) on mini trampolines! They had so much fun! There was lots of laughter to be heard. On Tuesday afternoon they joined with pupils in Years 3 and 4 at Hawkinge Community Centre to showcase their dances they had learnt this term. The children returned to school exceptionally excited and proud of their performances.

During the Pupil Voice Session on Thursday pupils were asked to share their views on PE at school - from their views on having a PE coach helping to teach the PE lessons to after school sport clubs that they attend (ran by school and attended at weekends with families) Miss Dawe will certainly share their views with you once they have been collated.

I was having a conversation with a parent this week about our fire alarm and lockdown practices and thought it would be a good idea to remind you about our procedures. In order to keep children safe in school we practice our evacuation procedure once a term (fire practice) without notice to the children or staff to ensure that everyone can be evacuated from the building quickly and safely. The whole procedure usually lasts between 3-4 minutes. In that time children are registered in the playground, our Fire Marshalls check their area of the building and Mr Fitch locates the area in which the alarm has gone off, checks that the area is safe and re sets the alarm before we can all re-enter the school. This happens so regularly that for children in Years 1-6 they manage this as part of the school day. Sometimes our pupils in the Reception classes find the noise of the fire alarm overwhelming the first couple of times we do it, but soon get used to it.

We practice our lockdown procedure twice a year. We have done one already this year. We practice the lockdown procedure to ensure that children are safe and secure in school in case of a range of eventualities. We ALWAYS explain to the children before we practice a lockdown so they know what is happening. We always tell them we are doing it in case a dog is in the playground without a lead and we need to keep them indoors and safe. Once the bell is sounded all children return to their classrooms. The Fire Marshalls ensure all exits in the school are closed and locked. The teachers pull down the blinds. Then Mr O'Brien and I visit each classroom to ensure all children are accounted for and rooms are secure. Within 5 minutes of the start of the lockdown procedure all classrooms are running 'back to normal'.

As always, if you have any questions about either of these procedures please catch either myself or Mr O'Brien. We are always happy to discuss these things with you.

The Christmas Post boxes will be up and running on Wednesday 13th December - thank you for keeping hold of all those Christmas cards!

Diary Dates – Term 2

December

9th Christmas Craft morning

10th - Breakfast with Santa (PTFA)]

12th – Y56 Landing Pad Assembly (2:15pm)

13th – Y34 Landing Pad Assembly (2:15pm)

15th – Y1/ 2 + Reception Nativity (9:30- Community Centre)

18th - Christmas Gift Day

19th – Christmas Lunch

20th – last day at school!

4th January – Back to School

Attendance of the week

Notre Dame class had the best attendance this week again - 99.17%

Nativity Year1, 2 and Reception parents

As you know the nativity will be held next Friday at the Community Centre starting at 9:30am. It will probably last for 45mins – 1 hour. If you could spare half an hour afterwards to stay and wrap some presents for Christmas Gift Day the PTFA would REALLY appreciate it!

Attendance / holidays

Please do remember that we are not in a position to be able to authorise holidays for children during school time. If there is a reason your son / daughter needs time out of school for an **exceptional circumstance** please complete the exceptional circumstance form that can be found in the school office or on the school website – About Us / Policy link / Attendance Policy.

Christmas reminder.....

As we move into December can I ask for your support to keep Christmas cards at home until the post boxes for Christmas cards will be available from Wednesday 13th December?

We have a few busy weeks leading up to that - with the nativity to perform, various landing pads and an 'assessment week' too!

Thank you for your support.

Internet Safety Tips

Talk to siblings

It's a good idea to talk to any older children about what they're doing online and what they show to younger children. Encourage them to be responsible and help keep their younger siblings safe.

Christmas Gift Day – Monday 18th December

On the 18th of December the PTFA will open their Christmas Shop for all children at Hawkinge Primary School. If you are new to our school the PTFA work hard behind the scenes to buy and wrap presents to sell at the shop, which allows your child to come and do their own Christmas shopping. At the end of the day they can bring home wrapped and clearly labelled presents to share with you!

To ensure that there are enough presents to go around we have found the most successful approach is to allocate each child a maximum of 4 presents to buy each. Each present is charged at £2.50. We will send a letter home next week to give you more details – just wanted to give you enough notice of this exciting event!

PTFA still welcome donations of wrapping paper! Many thanks for all the donations so far!

Lunch Menu – Week Commencing 11th December