



Friday 15th February 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

Can you believe that we are at the half way point of the school year? I certainly can't! For me, it continues to be a pleasure to lead the staff team in providing high quality education and care and to work with you as partners at St Edward's.

I echo Mrs Fryer's apologies on the late communication of our parents evening this week. However, despite the short notice, the evening was a success with the large majority of feedback being positive and constructive. Thank-you for your words of encouragement, your support in letting us know what we do well and for completing the 'Parent Voice' feedback that I will analyse and use to improve our practice, provision and care further.

Many of you were wowed by our corridor displays that showcase contributions from every child in school. The children are very proud to 'show off' their school and homework to their friends, staff and visitors in school. I hope that you enjoyed looking at and celebrating your child's progress in their work too. Mrs Clifford, Mrs Hordern and I completed a book/work scrutiny recently and agree that links between and across subject areas are showcased, opportunities to practice and apply are sought and examples of active, fun and collaborative learning are evident. We are now working as a staff team to ensure that children are clear about what they are learning and what they should strive to achieve in lessons. We will also be developing our marking and feedback policy so that it is effective in moving learning forwards and mindful of teacher workload; an agenda that is quite rightly high priority nationally, across our Multi-Academy Trust and here at St Edward's.

Thank you all for your understanding with regard to our school closure due to ice/conditions on Hollow Lane outside school. The likely risk identified was that cars may skid or lose control, due to the road conditions, and mount the pavement where children would be walking to school. Prior to the closure, we had made requests for Hollow Lane to be gritted by the Local Authority. We now intend to pursue our request further and are hoping you will support us with this. We will send a proposed letter to you after half term and then Mrs Leese will gather signatures of support at the beginning and end of the school day. Our School Council will also be working with their peers to ensure that pupil voice is instrumental in campaigning to keep their school open over the winter months.

Now, here is some news about teaching and learning in school this half term. Well...the Egyptians have been in town (or should I say in Cheddleton) this term! Squirrels, Spiders and Foxes thoroughly enjoyed their launch day and there were some amazing costumes. My personal favourites are always the ones that are homemade, as the children recall knowledge and facts that they talked about as they were making them with family and friends.

Bats, Frogs and Robins have been fully immersed in their learning around their class text, 'The Queen's Hat' this half term. I was impressed with their ability to write and explain the difference between commands, statements and questions when I observed their lessons recently. They have also been very excited to recall their knowledge about The Great Fire of London and I am particularly impressed with the teachers' planning in risk taking learning opportunities such as setting fire to their Tudor houses to recreate and see for themselves how fire can spread. I have also seen some fantastic fractions work in Key Stage 1 recently. It is good to see our concrete, pictorial and abstract approach to teaching and learning being taught and used as strategy to ensure that learning is justified and secure.

The Bees and Rabbits have been enjoying receiving and reading postcards from Roger Rabbit and Billy Bee who are busy exploring the world and sharing their knowledge with the children. The facts that they know about China and Australia have amazed me. The Hedgehogs have also been learning about our world with the help of 'Spaceman Sid'. They have been counting, recognising numbers and practicing blending and segmenting too!

It was good to be part of Safer Internet Day last week. Mrs Johnson (Computing and ICT lead) ensured that all classes had appropriate resources to steer age appropriate discussion and learning about 'Our Internet, our choice. Understanding consent in a digital world'; a topic that I know is important to us all. I hope that you found the home based activities useful too.

On the topic of safeguarding and health and safety, many thanks to the majority of parents/carers that are using the paths into school. Following health and safety advice, our driveway gates are now closed at the beginning and end of the school day. I must emphasise that these must only be opened for access by parents/carers that have prior consent from the school. Walking across the car park is not permitted in any circumstance.

As part of our preparations for our health and safety audit in March, we will also be reviewing risk assessments in place for the use of the staff carpark for dropping off and collecting children from Eddies. I am aware that issues have been raised by the school and Eddies historically and I reiterate expectations that safe driving/parking practices must be at the forefront of all users. I would encourage parents/carers to park on the roadside and to use the paths as an alternative to the previously agreed arrangements. I must thank the parents that have made us aware of an issue with 'dog poo' on the pavements outside school. I am sure that we all agree that it is not acceptable to leave faeces behind when walking dogs and it would be a shame if our 'dog friendly' school needed to reconsider our status ☹️. Our children are currently designing posters about this issue and ask that everybody respects our community spaces and keeps our pavements 'poo free!' I know that you will support them in their campaign - thank-you!

Sharing and celebrating with parents/carers is one of the many aspects of my role that make it such a privilege. However, I'm sure that you will appreciate that I also have obligations and responsibilities to deliver on other aspects too. As you know, in line with government and county expectations, we have high standards and systems and processes in place to ensure that attendance and punctuality at St Edward's is good. The majority of children attend well and on time and I thank all parents/carers for working with us on this. There are also rare instances where attendance is affected by circumstances and factors that are considered and recognised as unavoidable and we will liaise with families in such circumstances appropriately and with compassion. However, I am aware of isolated conversations in which the school's approach to attendance management is being discussed and portrayed in a negative manner, particularly on social media, and this is contradictory to the ethos and behaviour expected of the school community. We do invite parents/carers to discuss attendance issues face to face when appropriate and would also be happy to arrange meetings at your request to ensure that appropriate forums are used to air viewpoints and move forwards.

That's my grumbles over now back to more positive reporting😊!

As you know from their fantastic newsletter, our PTFA have been busily arranging lots of exciting events for the spring and summer term. Their Valentines cake competition and cake sale raised £87.00 this week. I was blown away by the amount they raised with the 'clothes bag' appeal too; £140.00 - what a fantastic amount raised from us all having a little de-clutter of our wardrobes! The PTFA really do make such a difference to the resources and opportunities available to our children and I would like to thank them once again within my letter.

On a final note, I am thrilled to share the achievements of our Cross Country team who took part in the intra school competition at Westwood College last week. In line with our inclusive approach to health and fitness, Mr Carter offered the experience to ALL Key Stage 2 children and 38 children took part! Their team spirit and sportsmanship was commendable during and after the event. We are proud of every single child and congratulate them all, including those that achieved 2nd, 3rd and 4th place - well done!

Best wishes



Mrs Machin

Principal

