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**WELLINGTON STREET, STOCKTON ON TEES**

**TS18 1QX, TEL: 01642 860055**

**Head Teacher: Mrs S Skillcorn**

20th December 2018

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers

**Christmas Events**

Thank you to everyone who has supported recent events in school. The Christmas Fair was very popular and we raised an amazing £819 for school educational visits. The Early Years nativity, *Oops a Daisy Angel*, was a delight. The KS1 performance, *Wriggly Nativity*, was amazing and KS2 performance, *It’s Christmas*, was fabulous. We have so many talented children that I am bursting with pride. The kitchen staff did an amazing job as Christmas dinner was lovely, with children pulling crackers in Christmas hats and eating together with staff. The pantomime of Cinderella was incredible too - oh, yes it was! I am really looking forward to seeing parents at our ‘Carols around the Tree’ tomorrow afternoon. You will be able to take your children home after their performances.

**Sporting Success**

A huge well done to our Year 5 and Y6 basketball team who beat Holy trinity, Fairfield and Hartburn Primary Schools to win the inter school basketball tournament without conceding a single point! EYFS had an amazing time at their Sports Festival. They improved their fundamental movement and strength, speed, agility, and quickness (SAQ) skills. Year 5 and Year 6 competed at the Track and Field Indoor Athletics. Their behaviour reflected the values of friendship, sportsmanship, honesty, resilience and impeccable behaviour.

**Extending the Curriculum**

Year 4 visited York as part of their topic ‘Traders and Raiders’. They visited the Jorvik Viking Centre to learn about how the Vikings lived in York and then visited York Minster.  Class 7 and Class 8 had an amazing day ice skating at Billingham Forum. Many bumps and giggles were had by children and staff! Children enjoyed a great pantomime of Cinderella. Oh no they didn't! Oh yes they did! Year 5 enjoyed working with an NHS team from Newcastle, learning all about healthy choices and then they presented to parents.

**Parental and Community Links**

Glee Club choir sang beautifully at the Mayor's Christmas Carol Service at Stockton Parish Church. The police visited Nursery to explain that they are friends who will help if children get lost or need help. The children enjoyed exploring the police vehicles. Our School Liaison Officer, PC Eric Barrett, visited Reception and Year 1 to talk about how the police work within our community. There are FREE Christmas activities in Stockton libraries over the school holidays.

**London**

We are planning a 2 day residential trip to London in the summer for our Y3 and Y4 children. Letters will be sent in January. **PTO**

**Staffing**

We welcome Mr Lennon to the Nursery team and Miss Jones to the Y1 team.

**Attendance**

Regular attendance continues to be a priority for Mill Lane. There is an expectation that your child has 100% attendance. The National Average is 96%. The LA regularly fines parents so **ONLY** keep your child off school if your doctor has said that they are not fit to attend. If they just have a temperature, cold, stomach-ache, headache, or any other ache please bring them to school and we will care for them. If they get worse and need to see a doctor, we will call you.

Attendance autumn term

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| --- | --- |
| Year Group | Attendance |
| Nursery | 90.75% |
| Reception | 94.66% |
| Y1 | 95.94% |
| Y2 | 95.40% |
| Y3 | 98.11% |
| Y4 | 94.61% |
| Y5 | 95.73% |
| Y6 | 97.65% |
| Total | 95.35% |

**Punctuality**

We have a small number of families who regularly bring their children to school after the gates have closed. It may only be 5 or 10 minutes but, after hanging up coats and sorting book bags, it causes a great deal of disruption to your child’s day and to their class. The office staff have to leave the office to take children to classes when they should be answering the telephone, seeing to visitors and completing their work. Lessons, which have already started, are disturbed and late children miss vital teacher introductions to lessons. Please make sure that your child is in school at 8:45am EVERY morning.

**Mobile Phones**

May I remind parents that mobile phones are **NOT** to be used on school premises, including the playground.

**Nursery Parents**

If you haven’t already done so, please remember to complete your primary admissions application if your child is due to start Reception in September 2019.

**£1 Book Shop**

The £1 fortnightly book shop has been a great success with children bringing in their pocket money to buy lovely books for only £1. The books are brand new and usually sell for much more in shops.

**Dates for your Diary**

*Friday 21st December* We break up for the school holidays

*Monday 7th January 2019* Children return to school at 8:45am

May I take this opportunity on behalf of staff, governors and children to thank you for your continued support and to wish you a Happy Christmas and a very peaceful New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Skillcorn

Head Teacher