Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of an incredibly busy half term, we have lots to celebrate.

**Residential visits**

This year we have introduced two new residential visits for pupils, and they have both been a great success. Last week our year 6 class enjoyed a fantastic trip to London, where they visited the National History Museum, watched The Lion King at the theatre, witnessed the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace and saw many other famous sites during their boat trips and on the London Eye. We trod many, many miles over our two days and the children returned exhausted but happy!

This week our year 2 children ventured to Knowsley Safari Park and the Catalyst Museum, where they took part in a range of workshops and slept overnight in the planetarium – what an amazing adventure! They thoroughly enjoyed their visit, as did the staff, and arrived back yesterday with huge smiles on their faces.

We would like to thank the staff who led and supported both visits – they are all definitely ready for a good rest over half term, as are the children.

**One World Many Cultures**

We have so many lovely comments from parents and carers who were able to join us for our day to celebrate China. Children across all year groups enjoyed learning more about the culture and language; they sampled food, learned songs and celebrated Chinese New Year. It’s so important to us to celebrate diversity within our school community. Thank you to all those who came to support our afternoon.

**Social Media**

We would like to take the opportunity to remind everyone of the purpose of our Facebook page, which is to give parents and carers an insight into life in school and to celebrate their achievements. Currently we permit comments to be made in response to our posts, but we do have certain expectations from members of our community in terms of comments made. Responses should be equally positive and celebratory.

This is not an appropriate forum for members of our community to air their concerns or grievances. We have clear procedures in place for making complaints which can be found on our website. Alternatively, parents can obtain a paper copy of our Complaints Policy from the main office. When inappropriate comments are made, our first response is to send a text to politely request that they are removed immediately. If our request is ignored and comments are not removed, the original post is taken down and the account in question will be blocked.

We have an open-door policy and we try to make ourselves available whenever you need to talk to u. As you know, both headteachers are at the gate each morning and at the end of every day. Additionally, our family support worker is at the gate on Thursdays and Fridays. We really enjoy catching up with you and we hope you feel you can approach us with any message or concern.

If you aren’t able to catch one of us, or you have specific concerns related to learning, then in the first instance the best way forward is to speak to your child’s class teacher or to make an appointment to speak with us. After this, if you feel that a situation hasn’t been dealt with appropriately or you remain worried, our complaints procedures should be followed.

Rarely are comments and posts, made in haste and anger, a true reflection of what has happened. But these comments do cause a considerable amount of harm and hurt to our members of staff who do their best to ensure all our children have the best experience possible at school.

**WhatsApp**

Once again, we are forced to highlight some concerns we have regarding pupils use of WhatsApp and urge parents to ensure they are fully aware of the messages being sent and received. This week we have had to speak to a group of children in upper key stage 2 about messages that have been sent to target one child in particular. This is online bullying. The children know that once they have written something and sent it, they leave a digital footprint and no amount of deleting will prevent the texts being retrieved. Please be reminded that the suggested minimum age for using Whatsapp is 16. Please see our helpful guide for parents which can be found on our website.

**Website and Parent Questionnaire**

As you know, through earlier communications, our website provider has had some issues which resulted in recent data being lost permanently. We have worked to ensure most information has been updated once again, including information on our new curriculum. However, our recent survey to parents cannot be restored. We would like to thank those of you (32 in total) who took the time to respond to our survey and to share with you that the overwhelming response was that most of you are happy with school.

Although we were not able to retrieve the comments and official results, we had read the responses each day and we are able to recall many of the suggestions you made, which include a weekly newsletter/ headteacher update. In response to this, we will endeavour to send out an update each Friday via email. One parent commented that they do not feel informed about what their child will be learning. In response to this we will ensure that the letters sent at the beginning of each term, to inform parents about their children’s learning, are also uploaded onto class pages on the website. Detailed information about what each year group learns in all subjects can be found in the ‘Our Curriculum’ area of our website too.

We do not feel we can ask you all to complete another survey so soon after you responded to the original. So, we will send out another survey, with the same questions, at the beginning of the summer term. We ask that you try to find the time, again, to respond when the time comes. Sorry!

**Finally…**

We would like to end the term by saying how proud we are of all the children for working hard. Recently our subject leaders have held pupil voice meetings to ask the children about their learning across all subjects, and they have loved sharing their books and they have spoken with great enthusiasm. We have so many children coming to the office to share their work with us and it really makes our day when we see how pleased they are with their progress.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break, and we look forward to seeing you back on Monday 27th February.

Kind regards,

Mrs C Harrison and Mrs L Guy