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Headteacher: Katie Williams

Friday 15th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the last day, I wanted to write to you all to share some updates, celebrations and points of reflection of the term. As always, when I look back at the last 13 weeks, I am amazed at just how many wonderful things have taken place!

Compassion

Our core value of compassion has continued to be at the forefront in so many ways. From the generous donations for the Bridgwater Food Bank at Harvest and for Advent, to the collections and support from you all for Children in Need, Save the Children, The Royal British Legion, St Peter's Lifeline and St Margaret's Hospice. Your generosity has benefitted so many that are in need. Thank you.

Staff Development

Many of our team have completed training and attended courses across the term. Mrs Cox and Miss Green are now both qualified Level 3 - Mental Health First Aiders. Something that is a real asset to our School. They are always happy to listen if you need to speak to someone.

Mrs Norris has joined Miss James and completed the ELSA training. Having two members of staff who are able to support the Emotional Literacy of our pupils is extremely beneficial.

Mrs Attwood and myself have completed the practical aspects of the course for Level 3 Forest School Leader and also the higher level of First Aid which accompanies this. We are currently completing the course work modules which are needed before the full qualification is awarded. We are hoping that Forest School sessions will resume in the Spring term as the weather starts to warm up!

Mrs Madge and Miss Gibson have completed the swimming instructor course and are now qualified to lead swimming lessons. This will benefit the children, greatly enabling us to keep costs down and the group numbers smaller.

Finally, today we learned that Mrs Brown successfully passed the National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership (NPQSL) and I have passed the National Professional Qualification for Headship. Both courses were carried out over the course of 18 months and have supported the development of essential leadership skills which will benefit the school.

Communication

We have been reviewing our methods of communication and the procedures that are followed to ensure that the most effective and efficient outcomes can be reached for all parties. As a school, we have looked at our existing methods for communication and have produced a guidance leaflet for parents and carers. We hope that you will find this useful. As always, please do contact us if you ever have any questions or concerns.

As Class Dojo has been so successful, the old class emails will become redundant. Very few emails have been sent using this format since the move to Class Dojo. If you need to share anything using email, then please send it to the school office office@puritonprimaryschool.org.uk and they will forward the email to the relevant member of staff.

Miss Hussey will continue to use the send@puritonprimaryschool.org.uk for any SEND queries.

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Attendance

As we are at the end of term, attendance letters will be coming home today. I have shared before that there is a duty of care for us as a school to regularly report on children's attendance. The Trust policy is to report where there have been 6 or more sessions of absence within a 10-week period. We understand that this is often due to illness. The letters are simply there to keep you, as parents and carers, updated with the current attendance levels of your child/ren.

FOPPS

We are really fortunate to have such a supportive and proactive PTA. Mrs Norris, Mrs Addinall and the Team have organised some excellent fundraising events, such as the Autumn Fayre, School Discos, Christmas Raffle and of course the ever-popular Tuck Shop. Thank you to all the parents who have supported these events, these help to raise much needed additional funds for our school.

Community Links

The end of term has been a real celebration for the whole school. The EYFS and KS1 nativity was magical. The children were just fantastic! We enjoyed welcoming in full audiences to watch the show. We wish the hall was bigger so we could have invited even more friends and family members! A huge thank you needs to go out to the Key Stage 1 team for all of their hard work in ensuring the show was a success.

Following on from the Nativity, we have enjoyed the Christingle service and Community Carol Service at the local church. We were overwhelmed, once again, by the generosity of the community in donating the oranges for the Christingles. The children loved making them and participating in the service led by Reverend Kirsty.

The Christmas lunch was another great success. The catering staff from Aspens did a wonderful job and the whole event was one of the most efficient we can remember!

Moving into 2024

As we look forward to the new year, we will be relaunching our school's approach to homework. Over the last term, the Senior Leadership Team have been exploring different approaches to homework and how these best support the children's learning and development. More news on this will follow at the start of Term 3.

We are hoping to start work on the development of the new sensory room as soon as possible. Miss Hussey has taken the lead on this development. We would like to get things in place quickly so that the children can benefit from such a wonderful resource.

Mrs Lee is looking into organising more sports fixtures against other local schools. We always enjoy having the opportunity to play against other teams. Watch this space!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support for the school. It really is a joy and a privilege to be the Headteacher for so many amazing children at such a wonderful school.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year! I look forward to seeing you all back at school on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

Yours sincerely

KWilliams

Katie Williams
Headteacher