



February 8th 2018

Dear Families,

As we edge towards half term (school closes at 3.15pm tomorrow and reopens at 8.40am on Monday 19th February for our children) thank you for your continued support over what has been a great half term on our journey forwards at Whinmoor St. Pauls.

There is great excitement in school today as we look forward to our first ever dance festival this afternoon. Every class has produced a dance as part of their P.E National Curriculum studies over the past five weeks. Each dance links with a subject area or topic which the children have studied since Christmas. These range from geography and 'Around the World,' to aspects of writing standards in Year 6, to 'convey character,' where our children will be performing the Nutcracker. We have given our children the opportunity to explore the use of expression through movement and demonstrate engagement in learning through a physically challenging task. We couldn't be more proud of them. Thank you to our children and families for all the practising which we know has taken place at home as well as at school, all members of our community who are coming along to support us this afternoon and thank you to Miss. O'Shea and all the staff team who have planned and prepared for the festival.

Our consultation evenings for parents and carers were very well attended this week. As always, it was wonderful to welcome you into school and discuss your child's progress. Those few parents who could not make the consultation evenings are warmly invited to contact our office staff and we will arrange a mutually convenient time when the class teacher can meet with you.

On the second night of our consultation evenings, Leeds City Council kindly hosted a 'taster' session for families to sample school lunches. This was really successful – many parents and carers commented how much lunches have improved since their days at school! As a result of this positive feedback, we are working with our colleagues at Leeds to arrange some lunchtimes when we can invite parents in to sample a full meal with us, over the dinner time period. More details to follow once we have firm dates.

This week our School Council have met with Mrs. Barley to catch up on where we are in our journey towards developing our Nature Area. Although it is not ready for full use (we have applied for grants and continue to fundraise through the PTFA) all our classes have (or will be) visiting it this week and on Friday our School Council will spend time in the area with Reverend Benwell, Mrs. Barley and Mr. Allen, discussing the exciting learning opportunities it will provide in the future. Those who follow Twitter will have seen that Year 2 have already been on a 'Gruffalo Hunt,' – a great time was had by all!

World Book Day 2018

This is the 21st year there's been a World Book Day, and on **1st March 2018**, children of all ages will come together to appreciate reading.

As part of this celebration we invite our children (and staff) to come into school dressed up as their favourite book character. We will use this to help the children to discover more about the books and authors they love. On the day, children will be bringing home £1 book tokens which they can take to a local bookseller and use to pick one of TEN (exclusive, new and completely free) books.

As we continue to focus on our 'Year of Maths', we are taking this opportunity to read maths books focussing on the power of numbers. In the week leading up to this day, all classes will focus on the same book, 'If...' written by David J Smith, at an age appropriate level. This will bring together our love of reading and the wonder of the mathematical world in which we live. We will be discussing this with all our children after half term.

Have a happy and restful half term and we look forward to seeing all our children back in school, on time and in full uniform, on Monday 19th February.

Miss McBride
Head teacher