

Welcome back to another exciting half term with lots of things happening. Please check the calendar on our website carefully for events and also the weekly Bulletin to check that you haven't missed anything, and for updates.

Staff Changes

We are delighted to say Mrs Stroud had a beautiful baby boy, *George*, on 21 February! Therefore, we now have Mrs Packard teaching Year 6 Monday-Wednesday. Mrs Roberts (a new supply member of staff) has joined us to cover occasional PPA slots and when teachers are unwell.

World Book Day Celebrations

I would like to apologise that I have not emailed earlier about this. On 8 March, to coincide with our Book Fair, we would like children in Years 1-6 to bring in a book to share within the class and encourage other children to try a different author. This year I chose not to take part in 'dressing up as a character from a book' as I feel we are losing direction in the purpose of having a Book Day. I feel the key reason should be to encourage reading and a love of books, and not to support supermarkets in making increased profits through the sale of costumes.

Parking

Within our village, parking continues to be an issue. Dacorum Council have spoken to me regarding inconsiderate parking near to road junctions and across the drives of local residences. The particular roads in question are Common Gardens, School Gardens and Vicarage Road. In these three roads, cars have been

parked across driveways and too close to road junctions.

We have an agreement with the Village Hall that parents can during "drop off and pick up" at the beginning and end of school. However, all cars must have left by 9.00am. This agreement can, and will be withdrawn if our parking has an impact on the users of the Village Hall. I continue to remind people of this restriction by being present in the car park on numerous days. I would be there more often, but I feel it is important to be at Collective Worship and welcome your children into school every day! I welcome your support in helping me focus on my core purpose of supporting and educating your children, rather than acting as a parking inspector!

I have received an email this week from a parent whose child was almost knocked over by a driver who had parked partially on the pavement. On this, my view is a little stronger - '**DO NOT PARK ON THE PAVEMENT**'. This is a safety message and I am furious that anybody would even consider that this is acceptable, particularly when young children are around. Please think about the consequences of your actions.

Attendance

I am pleased to announce that there has been an increase in attendance from last year. We are currently 0.5% higher than last year so hopefully we can aim to keep up this improvement and get it even higher! I would also like to ask that you make every effort to try and get your children to school in time for the

start of the school day. When a child arrives late, it often unsettles them and it can take additional time for them to settle into the routine of the school day.

Mothering Services

I would like to remind you that we have the Mothering Services coming up on 24 March. It would be wonderful to see as many of you there as possible. I would add, that if you cannot attend, please feel free to send a 'substitute' (grandparent, auntie).

Parent Consultations and Reports

Just a reminder that reports are going out soon and Parent Consultations meetings are going to be organised next week.

Sport

I have been very proud of our children and their achievements within sport recently. Our football team has played extremely well in all of their matches. They have represented the school with pride and have managed to record 3 wins on their score sheet and 1 draw in their 6 matches. It was also a fantastic afternoon yesterday (Thursday) for our Year 5/6 rugby teams who played all afternoon and really showed how good Potten End is at rugby! All teams won at least 2 matches and 2 of our teams did not lose all afternoon. Well done!