

POTTEN END C of E FIRST SCHOOL

Information Letter

9 January 2015

Welcome

Welcome back to an exciting New Year. I hope that you all had an enjoyable and restful break. Thank you for all the kind wishes that have been passed to me in my new role and for making me so welcome in your school. I really do consider it a privilege to be Head Teacher of such a friendly and welcoming school. Within our school we are so lucky to have such wonderful children and such dedicated staff and helpers. My vision for education is very much about the importance of a broad and balanced curriculum, which is underpinned with rich experiences and activities that motivate and inspire children. I feel strongly that Potten End School already offers this and I only want to continue to develop and enhance this good work. I recognise the importance of good partnerships in the community and welcome hearing your views within our Parent Forums later on this term.

Thank you

Thank you for all the gifts, cards and good wishes that I received personally for Christmas and also all of the gifts and cards the staff received. Your generosity was greatly appreciated by all in school.

End of KS1 Assessments (Y2), Y3 and Y4

Assessments

Mrs Birch carries out on-going assessments throughout the next three half terms. This is because many of the assessments are quite time consuming (as in Science). Mrs Birch carries out the statutory tests in Reading, Writing and Maths throughout May. It is vital that children

do not miss school (unless of course through illness) during this time.

Similarly, Y3, Y4 and Y5 will be completing assessments which enable us to plot their next steps of progress. As you will be aware the assessment procedures have changed nationally this year, with levels being abolished for all years except Y2 and Y6 (levels remain for these two year groups for the academic year 2014-2015). In future when reporting your child's ability we will be talking about whether they are in line, above or below national expectations. This will help you know whether your child is performing at a level that is average for the age group, above or below. This will hopefully remove some of the confusion, that used to previously occur around level expectations.

Winter!

Notification of any necessary closure due to bad weather will be through the school website and group call. In addition, relevant snow closure information relating to all Hertfordshire schools is available on the Herts website. Please ensure children have warm coats, hats and gloves for outdoor play, and also outdoor PE kit. If your child wears boots to and from school, please ensure that they have shoes or plimsolls to change into. Contributions of boxes of tissues are very welcome! Please send these in to the class teacher.

Church

We will continue going to Holy Trinity Church on the first Monday of the month at 9.30am and are pleased that so many of you are able to join us...everyone is very welcome and coffee and tea

is available in the Church Rooms from 9.00am.
The first of these will start on 2 February.

Reminder

The kitchen will be closed for hot school meals on the following days Monday 26, Tuesday 27 January and Wednesday 28 January. Mrs Brazer, is arranging to make packed lunches on site on these days, supplemented by items brought in from local kitchens. I am sorry for any inconvenience this might cause, but it is unavoidable.

Next week I will be out of school for the beginning part of the week, so if you have any issues that need attention please come in and see Mrs Hood. If there is anything that is not urgent, that you would like to chat to me about, please speak to either Mrs Adams or Mrs Sudbury and they will make an appointment for you.

Once again, thank you for making me so welcome in my new role and I look forward to meeting you all this term.

Andrew Morris