Hello everyone and welcome back to 2025!

We have had a very busy first 2 weeks back in school! The weather was dreadful for all concerned last week but we pulled together to ensure school stayed open and staff, parents and children stayed safe. We have been very grateful that the children have been able to play out this week.

The children have had a lovely values day in school and the work produced is now displayed in the hall. There have been 3 Forest School sessions, the children were amazing, and despite the cold weather lots of fun was had by all.

PCSO Karen Nixon was in school this week and interviewed all the children in year 5 that applied to be Mini Police Officers, I am thrilled to say that all passed with flying colours and the next step will be to have their attestation ceremony in school so watch this space for pictures of the celebration. The children have lots of fantastic ideas about how to support and have an impact in the school and wider community.

We had our planning coffee morning as a parent’s planning team and there will be more information coming to let you know of the plans they have for the Spring and Summer term. Please do join us if you can – the next meeting will be on Thursday 13th Feb 9am in the Community Room. Please do come and have a coffee and a chat. You will have the chance to make new friends and be part of a great group of parents.

Mrs N Tomlinson

In worship the children have been thinking about the school logo. The school council are working with the whole school to design a new school logo to then take to governors.

The children like the school’s name and think it is important to include a cross because we are a church school.

The words used by them all to describe their school were as follows:

* Peaceful
* Hopeful
* Friendly
* Helpful
* Loving
* Respectful
* Welcoming
* Joyful
* Thoughtful
* Christian

They talked to me about our school being a place where they enjoy learning.

**Dates for your Diary**

**Our Christian value this term is Perseverance**

**Our Heartsmart principle is** **“Too much selfie isn’t healthy”**

* **11th Feb Beech Residential**
* **12th Feb Oak Residential**
* **13th Feb Maple Residential**
* **13th Feb 9am Parent events planning team coffee morning in the community room**
* **14th February Break up for half term.**

Please can we remind all parents tht when dropping children off at breakfast club to ensure that they walk the children onto the school grounds and see them across the zebra crossing – mornings are still dark, and they are crossing a carpark.

Thanks for your support

**Forest school timetable**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **January** | **6th** | **YEAR FIVE/YEAR TWO** | am | **Elm (Yr5)** |
| pm | **Willow (Yr5)** |
| **13th** | am | **Elm & Willow (Yr5)** |
| pm | **Damson (Yr2)** |
| **20th** | am | **Elm & Willow (Yr5)** |
| pm | **Cherry (Yr2)** |
| **27th** | am | **Elm & Willow (Yr5)** |
| pm | **Damson & Cherry (Yr2)** |
| **February** | **3rd** | **YEAR THREE/FOUR** | am | **Beech (Yr3/4)** |
| pm | **Oak (Yr3/4)** |
| **10th** | am | **Beech (Yr3/4)** |
| pm | **Oak (Yr3/4)** |
| **24th** | am | **Oak (Yr3/4)** |
| pm | **Beech (Yr3/4)** |
| **March** | **3rd** | am | **Oak (Yr3/4)** |
| pm | **Beech (Yr3/4)** |

Do you want to support your local school, or do you know anyone who would be interested?

We have a vacancy for a co-opted governor, and we are looking for someone with HR and finance skills.

Please contact school via chair@wharton.cheshire.sch.uk to find out more. I’d be more than happy to have a chat with you about the roles and responsibilities of being a governor.

It does take time and effort, but it is a rewarding role.

Sue Tomlinson Chair of governors.

*Come and join us every* ***FRIDAY morning from 8.45 – 10.00am, starting on***

***16th January 2025,*** *at Little Seedlings, our baby and toddler group which is*

*held in our school library.*

*There will be singing, stories, craft activities and lots of fun!*

 *Come along for a chat and a play, whilst you have a drink and a snack.*

***Everyone is welcome!***

**Little Seedlings**



*‘From little seeds grow mighty trees’*



**Important information.**

**Snack price list; **

**Reminder; dinners are £2.65 per meal £13.25 per week.**

**PLEASE CAN WE ENSURE WE ARE ALL PAYING FOR SNACKS. WE HAVE NOTICED AN INCREASE IN CHILDREN SAYING THEY ARE PAYING ONLINE AND THIS IS NOT THE CASE.**

**There is no access on to school grounds unless you carry a blue badge. Parents MUST NOT park along the drive, down to the school! This is especially dangerous now for children coming in and out of school as parents are turning the road due to the barrier. This also reduces visibility crossing the road. Parents can use the public carpark next to the school. Please help us in keeping the children safe at drop off and pick up times**

**Attendance notice.**



The Education (pupil registration) (England) (amendment) Regulations 2013 came into force on 1 September 2013 and made it clear that head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless ‘exceptional circumstances’ prevail.

Head Teachers are only empowered to approve a leave of absence when it is requested in advance by the parent or carer with whom the child resides and when circumstances of the requested leave are ‘exceptional’. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

If you choose to take a leave of unauthorised absence with your child the Local Authority will be informed as this will constitute an unauthorised absence. A Fixed Penalty Notice will then be issued in accordance with section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law stipulates that the current penalties payable by parents are £160 if paid within 28 days reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days per parent/carer per child.

You should be aware that the National Framework for Penalty Notices introduced a new national limit of 2 penalty notices that can now be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period. If a second Fixed Penalty Notice is issued to the same parent for the same child, within three years of a first Fixed Penalty Notice, the second Fixed Penalty Notice is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.

If an unauthorised leave of absence is taken for a third time (or subsequent times) within 3 years of a first FPN being issued, another tool will need to be considered such as prosecution or other attendance legal interventions.

If a fixed penalty notice is issued to you and is not paid, this could lead to you being prosecuted in the Magistrates’ Court.

Please see Cheshire West and Chester Council’s code of conduct that can be found on the council’s webpage.

**Attendance Award.**

**Attendance Champions this week are Elm With 96%**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Class  | Percentage |
| Peach | 89% |
| Pear | 92% |
| Cherry | 90% |
| Damson | 79% |
| Beech  | 91% |
| Oak | 95% |
| Maple | 94% |
| Willow | 94% |
| Elm | 96% |
| Sycamore | 95% |