



Hookstone Chase Primary School
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Headteacher Miss Ann Wheatcroft

21st December 2017

Dear Parents

On behalf of all the staff and governors I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and successful New Year. I hope that you enjoy a relaxing holiday with family and friends.

It has been a very busy term. The Infant children treated us to wonderful performances of their Nativity Plays and all the children enjoyed a delicious Christmas Lunch and some lively Christmas Parties.

Last Tuesday, a small group of Year 6 children entertained the residents at Collins Court, Knaresborough, singing a number of Christmas Carols. This was very well received and I am sure the children put everyone into the Christmas spirit!

On Saturday evening, a group of 24 Year 4 and Year 5 children from the School Choir sang with a number of other school children, the Harrogate Choral Society and the Harrogate Symphony Orchestra in the annual Family Christmas Concert at the Conference Centre. It was a marvellous evening and our children were very well behaved and their manners were excellent. Well done children, I was extremely proud of you all.

The homework projects this term have been outstanding and we have all really enjoyed hearing about and seeing their research on display. Continued thanks for supporting the children in all aspects of their learning this term. It does make such a difference to the children's progress and achievement and we really appreciate your time and commitment.

Next term our theme is "What makes me, a me?" which will incorporate a science theme of Animals, Humans and Living things as well as continuing our Champion Minds work which helps the children to reflect on how they learn. Class teachers will be sending out Curriculum Newsletters next term and information is on the website.

Unfortunately our attendance figures are disappointing this term. Whilst I appreciate there has been significant absence due to sickness bugs and flu like illnesses there are a large number of children with attendance percentages below 90% which is classed as persistent absenteeism. A significant number of children have attendance figures of below 80% which means those children have had on average at least one day absent from school each week; that is a lot of learning lost as well as disruption for the children. Please come and speak to us if there are particular difficulties and we will do our best to support you and your child to achieve better school attendance.

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Please note I have a legal duty to investigate any unexplained, persistent and repeated absence. Let's make it our new year's resolution to achieve better school attendance and I much appreciate your help and support in this area. Special congratulations to all those children who have achieved or exceeded our school attendance target of 97% this term.

Tomorrow (Friday) is our last day of term and as always, we will be finishing school at **2.30pm**. The children may wear their Christmas jumpers with school trousers/dresses and skirts. We are looking forward to our celebration assembly where we will find out who has achieved end of term prizes for continued effort, which class has the best attendance and the team who have achieved the most house points. We were pleased to announce the Reading Raffle Winners in assembly today.

A huge thank you once again to the PTA for organising a fantastic Christmas Fair and to everyone who supported it. The children also appreciated the selection boxes that Santa brought! Finally, a big thank you to the parents who helped set up the party teas.

With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 9th January 2018.

Yours sincerely

Ann L Wheatcroft
Headteacher