



Acting Headteacher: Mr Carl Sutherland

10th January 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a belated Happy New Year. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break with family and friends. I still have happy memories of our celebration at the Church on our last day and would like to thank Karen and her wonderful team for not only entertaining our community with "Wor Nativity" but also presenting us with a very generous cheque to go towards resources for our Key Stage 2 yard. We are incredibly grateful.

It has been lovely to welcome you all back to our school this week and once again I am absolutely delighted to see how well the children have returned to school life. It is not easy coming back after a two-week break, especially with all the excitement that Christmas has to offer. However, our children have returned seamlessly back into their routines and their exemplary behaviour and respect for others was clear to see around school and in our first Champions' Assembly of the new term on Monday.

Exciting New Award – CARE Champions

Speaking of our Champions' Assembly, I wanted to be the first to let you know that I have implemented an exciting new award for children, to start with immediate effect. I wanted something that would be special for the children on an individual basis and which linked explicitly to our Lobley Hill School Vision and our CARE ethos: Co-operate, Achieve, Respect and Enjoy. Every week, the staff and I will be looking for children who exemplify our CARE ethos every day – they are kind, respectful, their behaviour is wonderful and they look after each other. Every week, six names will be chosen – 1 per year group (for the children from Year 1 to Year 6 who attend our Champions' Assembly on a Monday). They will receive a specially designed "CARE Champion" sticker from me in the assembly and as a group, will be invited to have Hot Chocolate or squash, biscuits and marshmallows with me in our new Meeting Room in school later in the week. I told the children all about this new award in Monday's assembly and they seemed extremely excited about it, as am I. The first winners will be announced on Monday 15th January in our Champions' Assembly. Who will the winners be? Knowing how fantastic our children are, this is going to be an exceedingly challenging task for us. I can't wait to find out!

Information Update – Gate from Key Stage 2 yard through Car Park

Following a review of Health & Safety procedures in and around the school, I wanted to let you know that from Monday, January 15th, the gate, which allows access from the Key Stage 2 yard to the front of school, via the car park will now be locked at the beginning and end of the day. I know that this probably affects only a few of you but I am sure you will agree that in order to keep children and parents safe, they should not be able to walk through the car park and around the back of the kitchen. This will mean that you will need to walk up the path and then down towards the school entrance and Key Stage 1 yard, should you wish to do so. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but your safety and that of your children is my utmost priority.

Communication

We have lots of exciting activities planned for this term and beyond. I am conscious of ensuring that we meet the needs of all our parents when we plan our activities, especially if they take place during the school day or immediately after school. It is vital that we strike a balance so that as many of our parents are able to attend to be with their children as possible and, as importantly, give you plenty of notice so that you can make arrangements in advance. This is a conversation we have had recently as a Leadership Team and whilst we regret that we will, of course, not always be able to meet everyone's needs, we will do our best to ensure we are as inclusive as possible. Excellent communication, both internally and externally is vital, especially in such a big school. I am aware that we have a "Respect Afternoon" for parents to join us in school on Wednesday, February 7th from 2:00pm, so please put that date in your diaries straight away – more information will follow. Having said all that, the events we held in the Autumn Term were wonderfully well attended by parents and carers and we thank you all for your support of the children and our school.

We will also be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday March 7th, 2024 and will be circulating information to parents and carers about this in plenty of time, so look out for more communication very soon. We have lots of exciting plans to share!

Finally, can I just remind you all that Lobley Hill Primary School will be closed to all children on Friday 16th February 2024. This is so that all staff can undertake additional training / INSET in school on that day.

I look forward to seeing you on the yard and around school over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

CR Sutherland

Mr C Sutherland
Acting Headteacher