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Howlsmere Close, Halling, Rochester,

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office@halling.medway.sch.uk

Wednesday 20TH December 2017

Dear Parents/carers,

**THANK YOU**

Thanks to everyone who attended our Christmas performances and carol concerts; the children love to perform and it makes all the difference to have an appreciative audience. At the KS1 performance, The Innkeeper’s Breakfast, we had a collection for the Alzheimer’s Society, a charity supporting research and help for the many families who are touched by this horrible disease. Your generous donations amounted to a total of £159.81. Thank you. This charity was chosen because it is the Halling Baptist Church’s charity for the year and we wanted to show our thanks to the Baptist Church for their recent, kind donation of £354 towards our outdoor reading den.

The Book People Book Fair was well-attended in November: the commission for the school amounted to £158.50 which we were able to spend on books for the class libraries.

The children once again enjoyed a pantomime, Aladdin, at the beginning of the month. Each year, this event is funded by the Friends of Halling committee using money raised through your support of events such as discos, the Sleigh Run etc. Without their tireless efforts, we would not be able to provide some of these extras (including the recently erected new ball wall) for the children.

***Tomorrow will be Christmas Jumper Day for all children and staff.*** This is not a charity event so donations are not required. School will finish at the usual time on Thursday.

**SCHOOL DINNER MONEY**

Please ensure that any outstanding dinner money is paid by the end of the school day tomorrow. Can I also remind you that dinner money should be paid in advance.

**THE SCHOOL CAR PARK**

Use of the school car park continues to be a headache for the school and for parents. I don’t know of any other Medway primary school that has car parking facilities for parents so we are lucky to have this. However, we cannot be responsible for “policing” the car park or the road outside the school. To do so would take people away from their main role in school i.e. teaching, learning and safeguarding the children. Please be aware that drivers use the car park at their own risk. Once building work begins for the school expansion (probably at Easter), there will be restricted parking available so it would be helpful to consider other options for bringing your children to school from the start of next term. Thank you to the great majority who use the car park appropriately and with respect for the safety of others.

**TRAFFIC PETITION**

We have been notified of an online petition to reduce the speed limit on the by-pass between the new Medway bridge roundabout and the Holborough Lakes roundabout. A number of parents walk to school from Snodland and Holborough so we will be supporting this action.

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=349&RPID=18637472&HPID=18637472>

***Finally, on behalf of all of the staff, I would like to wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.***

***We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Thursday 4th January 2018.***

Yours sincerely,

Mrs W. Donnelly

Head Teacher

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We are coming to the end of a slightly longer than usual term and I’m sure many of you are feeling it just as much as the staff and it’s a time when a lot of festive activity is taking place. Our pupils and staff have been very much a part of this and it’s always a pleasure to see the rewards of all the rehearsals, learning of lines and of songs in the various concerts both in and out of school. I just hope the children can last out in time for the big day!!

During another difficult year financially, it is somewhat refreshing to look ahead to next year with a sense of anticipation and positivity. The expansion of the school continues to progress and, after some lengthy discussions on what the school wanted and what Medway could afford, I am glad to report that we have now reached agreement on the final plans. There is still no definite date on the commencement of works, or whether the whole expansion project will be done in one phase or two, but we have been assured that our new Foundation Unit will be up and ready for our new intake of 60 Reception class children in September 2018. During the actual construction of the new buildings and offices, there will inevitably be some upheaval and minor disruption to the school day, but we will do our utmost to ensure that this is kept to a minimum and ask that you bear with us during this challenging time. I am very hopeful that the rewards to the school after the project will far outweigh any disruption before it.

The conversion to Academy is also on-going, albeit a little slower than anticipated. We have been working very closely with our colleagues at Cliffe Woods Primary School to ensure that all aspects of the conversion are being covered and that everything is being put into place for a ‘seamless’ transition. As you can imagine, this is not an overnight process and one that has to be followed to very strict guidelines. As soon as we are nearer to knowing the exact date of our conversion, we will of course let you know.

Finally I would like to thank you for your continued support this year and wish you all, as well as staff and pupils, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Very best wishes

Mark Tickner

Chair of Governors