



William Law CE Primary School

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Learning Living Loving Together

12th December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach Christmas, it is always a good time to reflect on the past year or in the case of school, the Autumn Term. It has been a busy period for the school community as a whole with many achievements throughout the year including an Excellent rating from our SIAMS inspection and also the Wellbeing award for schools. Both of these provide external validation of our teaching, environment and our care of the individuals within the school community. I would like to take a moment to thank every member of the school community for providing such as aspiring learning environment for our children.

A key area of focus for everybody involved within the school is safeguarding our pupils. As many of you who drive or walk to school will be aware, the school invested in a car park barrier to help reduce the number of vehicles around our children. The feedback we have received has been incredibly positive and I would like to say thank you to those parents who have adopted the changes by using the community car park accessed from Staniland Way or those who have started to walk to school.

As we enter the New Year, I know many of you will be planning for holidays. I would like to remind you of the school's absence policy that is approved by the Governors but really is dictated by Government legislation. It has been consistently proven that the more time a child misses from the classroom the less they will achieve of their potential in school assessments from KS1 through to KS4. With this in mind we will continue to monitor attendance and work with families where attendance is low. At the same time we also maintain our legal obligation to not permit holidays during term time unless in exceptional circumstances. The school can only make a decision on the information that is provided to them. If your child has unauthorised absences, you could be liable for a Penalty Charge Notice fine. To be clear the fine is issued by and dealt with by the Local Authority and not the school and the school receives no monies from the fine.

As a school, we do understand the cost of holidays and this is why last year we continue to manage our inset days to enable longer holiday periods where possible. We have heard lovely stories from the children and families who managed to take advantage of the inset days to reduce the cost of a holiday whilst ensuring their children were in school on time on the first day of term. As a school we believe this is a positive approach and we will continue to plan and publish our term times accordingly.

To finish on a more positive note it would be amiss not to thank all of the parents, staff, local businesses and the School Association for the great voluntary work that occurs throughout the school. From teachers providing their time to run almost 40 different clubs, through to those parents that volunteer their time to read with children and help on school trips; you all make a fantastic difference to our school and help to enrich the children's learning experience.

The School Association has gone above and beyond again this year helping with investments in the school as well as organising the Christmas bazaar and school discos for our children. The work that leads up to these events is huge and all voluntary and I'm sure all of us would like to say thank you for their efforts.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas.

Yours faithfully

Kristian Toms
Chair of Governors