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Autumn Newsletter No. 5

6<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a restful half-term break. It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school and see the children settle so well to their learning. This term is always a busy one with lots of exciting celebrations for the children to learn about and join in with. This week, FOBSA are holding a mufti day, on Friday, please see further information below. Thank you to everyone who came along and bought a cake or two, on our last day of term. FOBSA raised a very impressive £214!

Finally, I have been made aware that some families are choosing to share concerns they may have, via *WhatsApp* groups. I would be grateful if parents do not raise concerns in this way but instead, I encourage you to come into school and speak with us so that we can understand your concern and help solve the problem. Teachers and I are available at the end of the day or a meeting can be arranged. I would appreciate your support on this matter please.

Kind regards  
Miss K Aldred - Headteacher

#### Attendance/Leave of absence requests

It has been very disappointing to see increasing numbers of children absent from school, for holidays/birthdays/special days and to have received a number of requests for exceptional leave, over the past few weeks. As you will be aware, I am unable to authorise such requests, other than in truly exceptional circumstances. For your information, **family holidays are not considered exceptional**. The impact on the children, of missing time in school, should not be underestimated, both academically and especially at this age, socially. It is worth noting, a child with an attendance rate of 90% (20 days of absence), over the course of a year, is classed as persistently absent by the Department for Education. Please take note of term dates, available on our website, and organise holidays and days out, during school closure periods.

#### Key Dates

08/11 Mufti Day  
23/11 Christmas Fair  
26/11 Happy Bags Collection (09.00am)  
03/12 FOBSA Wreath making workshop  
10/12 Christmas Performance Year R -09.15  
11/12 Christmas Performance Year 1 -09.15  
12/12 Christmas Performance Year 2 -09.15  
18/12 Childrens Xmas lunch and party (details to follow)  
20/12 Last day of term- 3.10pm finish

07/01/25 Return to school- normal time

Full term dates can be found [here](#)

#### Mufti Day – wear your own clothes to school

We will be holding a mufti day on **Friday 8th November**. The children are allowed to wear their own clothes to school that day, in exchange for a £1 donation. All monies raised will go directly to FOBSA for their Christmas fair events. The children will still have a 'normal' day in school on that day so please ensure sensible shoes, coat and attire!

#### New Lunch Menu

The lunch menu has now changed, to the Autumn /Winter menu. You can find full details on our school website [here](#)  
Please note we are currently on Week 1.

#### FOBSA

FOBSA have a number of events planned over the coming term, which I am sure the children will enjoy. We will do our very best to keep you updated! Mufti day is this coming Friday and then the Christmas fair, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. FOBSA are still looking for donations of bottles, chocolate and jolly jars. Please pop these in the boxes at drop off time. Any offers of help, on the day, are also very warmly welcomed!

We will have a Happy Bag collection on 26<sup>th</sup> November, so please start gathering up old clothes, bedding etc and save it for that date and, our popular wreath making workshop returns on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Finally, if you wish to order your child's Christmas card design please do so as soon as possible and absolutely no later than this **Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> November**.