**17th January 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

This new year we have implemented some new initiatives.

**Attendance**



**The first of these is our weekly monitoring of the whole school attendance.** We have appointed a Governor with a special responsibility for attendance – Mrs Jan Lavin and in the coming weeks we will be holding special attendance meetings and completing attendance action plans for specific children who fall into the persistent absence category.

**Some facts and figures**

Attending school every day = 100% attendance

Attending 4½ days a week = 90% attendance = 4 weeks missed per year

Attending 4 days a week = 80% attendance = more than half a term missed per year.

Attending 3½ days each week = 70% attendance = more than a quarter of the school year missed.

An average attendance of 80% or less across a child’s school career adds up to missing a whole 2 years from school.

It is very tempting to take term time holidays, but it is only in exceptional circumstances that these holidays would be authorised. **Please do not book a term time holiday**. Learning

happens at a brisk pace within our school and when children have days off it prevents them from fully understanding the concepts. This is especially relevant in Key Stage 1 and Reception where we complete 45 minutes intensive phonics learning every single morning starting at 9.00am. So, if you are experiencing any difficulties with your child’s attendance please get into contact with the school office and arrange a meeting with a member of our ‘Attendance Team’.

We will continue to encourage good attendance through certificates at the end of term and year and we are going to re-introduce the special weekly award for the class with the highest attendance. This week I am very pleased to announce that Y4 won and they will receive an extra playtime. Moving forwards, we are going to put the weekly class attendance on our website so that you can check at any point!

**Hope Orphanage, Uganda**

**On Friday we will be collecting money for the Hope Orphanage in Uganda.**  This is another of our new initiatives and we are hoping to develop our relationship with the orphanage and make a difference to the lives of the children, and as we get to know them better for them to help us to develop into better citizens. We would ask that the children come into school dressed in the colours of the Ugandan flag (Red, brown, or yellow) and if possible, they bring in a donation. All funds will be passed on directly to the Hope Orphanage.

**Reading**

**School continues to have a keen focus on reading,** and we would strongly request that you try to find time to read with your child on a regular basis. Just 10 minutes every day can make a massive impact on reading development. If you are struggling with reading with your child on a regular basis or you would like to volunteer to read with a group of children, one morning or afternoon a week – please contact the school office.



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The reading agency.org states

**Children who read books often at age 10 and more than once a week at age 16 gain higher results in maths, vocabulary, and spelling tests at age 16 than those who read less regularly**

**Mrs Pullar**

Mrs Pullar begins her maternity leave this week and we are very pleased to welcome into our school Ms. Stones to cover year 1. Ms. Stones is an experienced teacher with good relevant knowledge of the teaching of Year 1 and Read, Write, Inc.

And … finally please find below one of my favourite bible verses.

**Deuteronomy 31:6** ~ Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

Yours sincerely,

1. E . Jackson

Mrs A E Jackson