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Dear Parent/Carer

I can't believe I'm approaching the end of my first half term as Headteacher, it has certainly been a busy time in school full of exciting learning opportunities and amazing achievements.

At the start of term we welcomed a new team of staff led by Lyn Frankton and nine new pupils to our Willowfield class. The class is currently located in what used to be the Physiotherapy and Occupational Health Space. Throughout the autumn term the area has been redesigned to enable this space to become a useable classroom area enabling the first class of the new free school (Willowfield) to open prior to the new school opening in 2023 (proposed opening date). Despite building work taking longer than we expected the children and class team have settled in well and we would like to thank parents/carers for their support during this time.

This term's theme is Extreme Environments which has seen the pupils engaging in a variety of engaging activities including our sensory learners experiencing life "On the Waves" through their sensory story. Exploring and identifying different environments in our Early Years classes, exploring different weather and the environments linked to these through the key text of The Gruffalo's Child in Keystage 2/3 to learning about and creating volcanos in Keystage 3/4. The school recently participated in the NSPCC Number Day and raised £85.28 through wearing number themed clothing and participating in a whole school copper trail. We had some fantastic number themed outfits and an amazing response to our copper trail so thank you once again for your generosity and support with this and all our events.

There has been a real team ethos throughout the school this half term and I can't thank our amazing staff team and yourselves enough for the understanding and support everyone has shown throughout what has been a very challenging couple of months in relation to Covid-19. Everyone has supported each other to ensure our

children, young people and staff can continue to access and deliver an engaging curriculum whilst maintaining the safest of environments. As we move into another phase of government guidelines, we would like to request your continued support in being vigilant around your child developing symptoms and testing when/if possible. Although the isolation rules are potentially being relaxed after the half term holiday I want to reassure you that as a school, due to the vulnerability of our pupils, we will continue to be responsible about the measures we have in place. This will include staff continuing to wear masks and PPE for personal care routines, physical management and feeding routines. We will also continue to advise staff to wear masks if they have been in contact with a positive case or have any of the symptoms, despite testing negative. Staff will continue to be advised to test twice weekly, or the day they come into school if they're part time workers. We will continue to keep you informed of our updated risk assessment as the government guidance is updated and we reflect on this.

Enclosed with this letter is your child's personalised plan which provides you with an overview of the spring term curriculum, outcomes for the spring term and ideas of how to provide enrichment activities at home. You will also find a leaflet of all the exciting events coming up for the rest of the year and details of our PTFA Coffee mornings. After half term we will also be inviting you to come into school to discuss your child's progress with their teacher. We also hope to host some parent workshops during the summer term so please feel free to contact us if you have any special requests.

Following the holiday, we will no longer be staggering the pupils boarding/ disembarking the buses as class teams will come out to collect all the pupils at 9am and then bring them out to the buses promptly for school finishing at 3:20pm. Can we please ask if you bring/collect your child that they are here for 9am and collected by 3:20pm (we will inform you if this has to change due to Covid-19 implications).

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing more of the sunshine and you throughout the remainder of the spring and summer terms. School restarts for all pupils on Monday 28th February at 9am.

Many thanks



Helen Maddison
Headteacher