



Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am not sure about anyone else, but I always find January a really challenging month. It always seems to be endless and so depressing. February, though, brings with it signs of hope, Spring and better times to come – or that is how I always feel anyway.

We never know what challenges other people are facing in their lives. We have families who have been without power, others who have had devastating storm damage to their houses last weekend and some who are facing very worrying health struggles. Life can be so hard and we all have no idea what each other is going through. So please, in a world where you can be anything, just be kind. We have no idea what a kind word can do for others and it would be wonderful if we can all just spare a thought for others and do what we encourage the children to do in school and that is to just be kind to each other.

## **Week Beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Children's Mental Health Week**

Next week is national children's mental health week and we will be recognising this and carrying out some additional work and activities to support the mental health and well-being of our children. I say additional because the well-being of our children and their mental health is always a priority in all our work every week.

During the week, we will be enjoying some activities in class as well as having an assembly all about their mental health. We will just be encouraging the children to think about their well-being and to think positively.

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February, we will be encouraging the children to come to school wearing a scarf of their choice. SCARF is the PSHCE scheme that we follow in school. Wear a Scarf to School Day will be a great way to conclude the week, but with the understanding that children's well-being is forefront of our minds. We will also be reminding the children that the choice of their scarf says something special about them and the ways their scarves could reflect the SCARF values:

- **SAFETY** - some scarves will be warm and comforting, helping to keep someone snug and safe in very cold weather!
- **CARING** - some scarves might have been a present from a special person; they'll help make someone feel cared for. Wearing a scarf as part of religious faith can also help someone to feel cared for.
- **ACHIEVEMENT** - some scarves might be part of a club, perhaps a sports team. These are waved when a club achieves (e.g. when a football team scores a goal!) They also show when someone belongs to something.
- **RESILIENCE** - a football team's scarf can also help someone to remember that they can still support a team even if it's not doing well; they can show resilience when bouncing back from defeat or disappointment.
- **FRIENDSHIP** - maybe some scarves were a gift from a friend and this makes them extra special.

## **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – Year 2 at All Saints Church**

On Monday afternoon, Year 2 will be going to All Saints' Church to support their work in R.E.

## **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – Safer Internet Day**

Tuesday is Safer Internet Day when again, we will be undertaking some activities to remind the children how they can keep themselves safe online and we will also be linking this in with Children's Mental Health Week with the older children. We will be talking about the ways in which inappropriate use of the internet can affect their mental health.

### **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – Online Safety Parent Session at 9.30am**

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February, Mr Bailey will be holding a Zoom meeting for all parents and carers with some advice about how to keep your child safe online. This will start at 9.30am and finish at 10.15am The session will be recorded and the link for this session is below:

<https://zoom.us/j/4802417849?pwd=Ynpkdi9sUXBXUEY2b1dtam5ieUNmQT09>

### **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – Year 6 Parent Meeting about Northern Ireland Residential**

We have our meeting for Year 6 parents and carers at 6pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February about the planned residential to Northern Ireland. Mr McLoughlin and myself are here now and visiting all the places we will be taking the children to, our accommodation as well as completing the risk assessments. We will have lots of photographs to share with you and know that this is going to be a very special trip for them all. The link for the meeting is below and it should last no more than 30 – 45 minutes:

<https://zoom.us/j/99196404674?pwd=bWtmOHg3UEp1aVFMNkN1VSNkNtZz09>

### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – Year 2 at Life Science Centre**

Our Year 2 children are going to the Life Science Centre on Thursday for the day to support their work in Science, 'Moon Zoom'. They will all need a packed lunch for the day and should come in normal school uniform. They will return to school in time for the end of the school day. Please can we remind you to give consent for your child to attend this trip and make payment via ParentPay or in cash to the School Office.

### **Chester Zoo Free Tickets for School**

Thank you very much to those parents who alerted me to the opportunity to apply for free tickets to Chester Zoo. I have put in an application for Years 5 & 6 for next academic year and we shall just have to wait and see whether we are successful now. We would just be allocated a date any time between November and February. Let's hope we are successful!

### **Sunderland AFC v Burton – subsidised ticket offer.**

We are delighted that Sunderland AFC has invited us to take advantage of their very popular school fundraising initiative for a forthcoming home league game at the Stadium of Light. The scheme enables you and your child to experience the famous family atmosphere at the Stadium of Light at a special promotional price whilst raising money for the school.

We have the opportunity to take advantage of the scheme at the ***Sunderland AFC v Burton Albion fixture on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, kick off 7.45pm.*** For this game only, you can purchase a pair of tickets (one adult and one child) for the special promotional price of just £20. For each pair of tickets purchased this way, SAFC will donate £5.00 to the school.

If you wish to take advantage of this offer, please complete the form below and return it to school with full payment in cash no later than **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February.**

Please note this invitation does not entitle ticket purchasers to any other benefits that may be available on normal priced match day tickets. The tickets are for use by you and your immediate family and are not for re-sale.

[Sunderland Grassroots Ticket Request Form](#)

### **Parent Governor Ballot**

I am delighted to inform you that Mr Chris Grady is your new parent governor after a very close parental ballot. It is wonderful that so many parents expressed an interest in this role and the ballot was exceptionally close. Thank you to all parents for taking the time to vote.

### **Rights Respecting Schools**

I am delighted to inform you that we have been awarded the Bronze Level for our work towards becoming a Rights Respecting School. This is our first step on a long journey towards becoming a Rights Respecting School but it is a small and very important step.

### **Traffic and Parking**

I will be talking with some of the older children next week to gather their views about the current parking and traffic issues in the village. We hope to be able to have a children's road safety group who will be able to liaise with their peers and come up with some ideas about how to alleviate some of the current issues in the village. Hopefully, this should be quite powerful in bringing about some action!

### **Early Years News**

Next Wednesday - 9<sup>th</sup> February - is our Chinese New Year party day in EYFS. We are celebrating the Year of the Tiger. Your Nursery or Reception child is invited to come to school wearing red/bright colours if they would like to do so.

From next week, we will be starting Phonics sessions in Reception at 8:55. Our flexible start is from 8:30 to 8:45. Please ensure your child is in school by 8:45 so that they are ready for their phonics session.

### **Erasmus+ Visit to Denmark for Year 6**

Please remember that the deadline for parents to express an interest in this visit is Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February at midday. The link for the online form is below:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h\\_HBU2bpIJ4QL0zspgHwMT8S9HoKOJAHdz6ThURERNNVdYUU9YNDVOOTJWM0E5T0IER1I1Vy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nQP32h_HBU2bpIJ4QL0zspgHwMT8S9HoKOJAHdz6ThURERNNVdYUU9YNDVOOTJWM0E5T0IER1I1Vy4u)

### **Advance Notice: World Book Day – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022**

We are planning various special activities for World Book Day which is on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022. We thought we should give you some advance warning that children will have a choice about what they would like to wear for school that day. They will either be able to come in fancy dress as a book character, or they can come in pyjamas. We will be spending some of the day enjoying a bedtime story with different staff members reading their favourite stories to the children. Alternatively, they can come in non-uniform. We thought it would help to inform you of this with plenty of notice!

### **Parents' Evening Bookings**

The online booking system for parents' evenings has now closed so if you have still not booked an appointment with your child's class teacher, this will have to be done by either phoning or emailing the school office.

### **Holiday Club – February Half Term (Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 2022)**

Mr Graham will once again be running LJG Coaching's holiday club during February half term from Monday until Thursday. If you would like more information or to book your child in to any of the dates, please email [LJGSportscoaching@gmail.com](mailto:LJGSportscoaching@gmail.com) or fill in this online form: [LJG Coaching Holiday Club](#). Please note, a £5.00 deposit will be required when booking to ensure your child's place.

### **Positive Thinking**

*Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile,  
a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment,  
or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.*

As usual, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the school office. We are here to help you all!

Yours sincerely,

*Jane Davis*

Mrs Jane Davis  
Head Teacher