**HUGH JOICEY C.E. AIDED FIRST SCHOOL, FORD**,



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Headteacher: Mrs Jacqueline Dalrymple M.Ed

**Happy, Healthy, Aspirational Learners in a Christian Community**

**9th January 2018**

Dear Parents and Families,

Happy New Year! We trust the children have all had a good break. It’s lovely to have them all back in school ready to learn. Thank you for supporting our Carol service at the end of term, the children sang beautifully and energetically! Thank you to the PTA for the raffle and to you all for your donations and ticket sales. We are planning to invest in i-pads to expand the computing curriculum and in outdoor playground equipment.

Father Victor Dickinson is retiring at the end of January and we would like to thank him for his service to the school and community. We are arranging a little school send-off…details to follow.

**HELP!**

If anyone with patience and regular time would consider hearing children read for us for an hour or so each week we would be enormously grateful. This is very important but time consuming for teachers with the rest of the class to focus on. Aside from class and guided reading, hearing individuals for 10 minutes could take 5 hours for a class teacher. Please ask around. A DBS form would be completed for you and confidentiality policy applies…but it’s very worthwhile! Thank you.

**Half term arrangements:**

* Cherry class (KS1) **swimming** every **Wednesday**. £4/child or £6/family to be paid at the beginning of each week, in a named envelope please.
* Can KS1 children please practise dressing by themselves if necessary…it’s tricky after swimming! Can we also suggest **jogging bottoms** rather than tights for the girls.
* Beech class will be doing PE and Science with Mrs Turner on Wednesday afternoons.
* Oak class – Forest remains Wednesday afternoon.
* **Dinner money** is £2 a day and should be paid in advance each week please, also in a named envelope.
* **Film Club –** **Thursday 3.15-4.15** with Mrs Dalrymple

Bring a sensible snack/drink. Children without permission slips will be put on the bus as normal. Please phone if arrangements change.

* **Tag Rugby** – Dougie Hall is our coach every Friday this term for KS1 and KS2. Children will be outside on the field whenever it’s not pouring so be prepared. Every child needs **named kit**, jogging bottoms and hoodies recommended. Studs are permitted but not compulsory. Gloves may be worn (not mittens!) It is likely kit will need washed/dried each week so remember to bring it back in. No kit – no PE and we don’t want anyone to miss out.
* **Tag Rugby Club** – **Friday,** 3.15. Collect at 4.15. Kit as above.
* **Water bottles** are recommended, especially on PE days.
* School closes on Friday 9th February and reopens Monday 19th February 8.45.
* Parent information meetings 28th February – appointment letters to follow

**Attendance and lateness**

Attendance overall at our school is good, around 97%, but a few persistent absences are affecting our average. Please ensure your child is in school, ***before 9am start***, whenever possible. We understand there are lots of illnesses, especially this time of year, so please call us every morning if your child is too ill to attend or has an appointment.

Wherever possible please arrange holidays outside of term time.

**Preview homework:**

The teacher training days we attended were about the importance of **Feedback** and **Dialogue** to progress and learning. The focus is on the power of good quality talk and language, challenge, listening to others ideas and collaboration for cognitive development. Our Feedback policy endorses this practice.

You can support at home by making sure your child **reads** **every day**, (10 minutes), to develop language and comprehension with opportunities to discuss ideas.

It would be great if you could also support ‘**Preview homework’**. Research based on **SOLO taxonomy** shows this is also a powerful tool for ensuring progress. Preview homework can be questions, challenges or suggestions set by the teachers linked to the learning for the *following* week as an opportunity to begin to find out about vocabulary/topics/ideas in advance of class teaching. We hope it will also help keep you informed about what your children are learning and give you more opportunity to get involved. We see that those children who discuss their learning outside of school are those who achieve a greater depth of understanding, able to interpret and link their ideas in new ways to extend their thinking.

These will not be arduous tasks but suggestions to build into activities they are already doing.

CLIC maths and Read Write Inc Spellings will continue, we can see the impact of both these programs in the quality of the children’s work.

**Thank You for all your support!**

There is copy of this letter on the school website and dates are also on the website calendar.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns please contact me or your child’s teacher so we can resolve them as soon as possible. Thank you for your support as ever.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Dalrymple