CROFTON NEWS – DECEMBER 2022

**VIEW FROM THE GOVERNING BODY**

This is my last opportunity before we break up to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year on behalf of all governors and staff at Crofton Junior School. I know from talking to Mr Birdsall that all the staff are very much looking forward to being able to provide the children with the opportunity to take part in all the Christmas activities that prior to Covid-19 were annual events. It truly is a very special time of the year.

I would like to advertise again the opportunities we have for joining our governing body. Since I spoke to you last, Mr Hadley & Mrs Thirsk have decided not to continue in the role of school governor due to personal circumstances. I would like to thank them for all their hard work in the time they were in the role and wish them every success in the future.

As a result, we now have three spaces available in the role of parent and co-opted governor. Being a governor is a very important, enjoyable and rewarding role. Please do not feel as though you need to have experience of working in education; it is very important that our governing body reflects a wide range of backgrounds, knowledge and experiences in order to support the school effectively.

If you would be interested in becoming a school governor, or simply wish to find out more, please contact school as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

Mrs S. Borman

**ONLINE SAFETY**

We have had some very positive feedback from parents/carers who have taken us up on our offer for you to bring any devices your child uses at home to school, so that our IT technician can explain how to add parental safety settings if you are unsure. As a result, and the fact that many of you will be considering buying new devices in the very near future, we have decided to extend the offer until the end of the autumn term.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, Mr Bibby will be available in the school office **8:30-9:30am and 2:00-3:00pm every Friday until Friday 9th December**.

**ATTENDANCE**

The overall school attendance at the time of writing (25.11.22) has dipped slightly to 94.66%, which is in the ‘Amber – Worrying Attendance’ category. Please be aware that punctuality also impacts on each child’s overall attendance and, ultimately, the opportunity for them to achieve their full potential in school.

We will be sending out each child’s individual attendance summary for the autumn term during the last week of term so you are fully aware and up to date.

Individual class attendance currently is:

* Elf Owls – 93.97%
* Snowy Owls – 93.62%
* Sooty Owls – 95.09%
* Spotted Owls – 94.43%
* Barn Owls – 95.51%
* Tawny Owls – 96.02%
* Eagle Owls – 94.64%
* Hawk Owls – 94.09%

Barn Owls and Tawny Owls have earned the most money so far towards an end of year treat of their choosing, £20 each. Each week, the class with the highest attendance is awarded £5.

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| **Outstanding attendance**  **Blue: 98%-100%** | **The best chance of success.** |
| **Good attendance**  **Green: 95% – 97.9%** |
| **Worrying attendance**  **Amber: 90% - 94.9%** | **Less chance of success because of periods of lost learning time.**  **Makes it harder to progress well.** |
| **Serious Concerns attendance Red: below 90%**  **about** | **Significant lost learning time.** |

**SAFEGUARDING**

As well as being a wonderful time of year, Christmas can also be a very stressful time of year for some families. Unfortunately, statistics show that cases of domestic abuse increase during this time of year. It is expected that this year, incidents will rise even further as a result of the World Cup and cost of living crisis.

We are an Operation Encompass school, which means that we are informed of any domestic abuse incidents involving our families whether the child is present or not. If you have any concerns about incidents of domestic abuse, please see the ‘Wakefield Council Domestic Abuse – Hear to Help’ link on the Safeguarding page of our school website.

**MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING**

Mrs Henwood, the school’s Mental Health & Wellbeing Co-ordinator, is working hard to ensure that we have a comprehensive package of support we can provide to our children and families if required. She will be using this newsletter to promote different aspects each month. However, in the first instance, I would like to make you aware of the Mental Health & Wellbeing page on the school website which can be found by clicking the ‘More’ button. The page is a wealth of information which I have no doubt will be of support to people.

**CHRISTMAS IN WAKEFIELD**

There are many Christmas events and lots of festive fun taking place in Wakefield this year, including a special event for children with SEND. Further information is available via the following website link:

<https://experiencewakefield.co.uk/christmas-in-wakefield/>

**DIARY DATES**

* Year 5 visit to Leeds Playhouse to see Charlie & the Chocolate Factory – Thursday 1st December
* Christmas Concert – 6:00pm Monday 5th December
* Wakefield Hospice Reindeer Run sponsored event – Wednesday 7th December
* Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day – Wednesday 7th December
* Year 6 author workshop – Thursday 8th December
* Reverse Advent for St Catherine’s Church – Monday 12th December \*we will contact the foodbank to find out which items they would prefer to be donated
* Years 3 & 6 visit to the pantomime – Tuesday 13th December
* Years 4 & 5 visit to the pantomime – Wednesday 14th December
* Christmas Party Day – Thursday 15th December
* Children break up for Christmas Thursday 15th December
* Inset Day Friday 16th December
* Return to school – Tuesday 3rd January
* Young Voices – Wednesday 4th January
* Break up for half term – Friday 10th February
* Return to school – Monday 20th February
* Year 5 residential to Robinwood – Wednesday 1st – Friday 3rd March
* Year 6 residential to France – Monday 27th – Friday 31st March / early hours of Saturday 1st April
* Break up for Easter – Friday 31st March
* Return to school – Monday 17th April
* May Day – Monday 1st May
* **Bank Holiday for the King’s coronation – Monday 8th May**
* **Year 6 SATs Week – Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th May \*this is a change to the original date**
* Children break up for half term – Thursday 25th May
* Inset Day – Friday 26th May
* Return to school – Monday 5th June
* Year 3 visit to Murton Park – Friday 7th July
* Children break up for the summer – Monday 24th July
* Inset Day – Tuesday 25th July

Please look out for further dates in the year.

Yours faithfully

Mr P. Birdsall

Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead