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24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents,

## **Attendance**

We are now entering the time of year when many children are succumbing to the usual seasonal illnesses and viruses. In these circumstances, we obviously do not expect children to attend school if they are simply too unwell to do so. If your child is a bit under the weather, or you are not quite sure if they are really unwell, please do send them to school and we will monitor them closely, sending them home if necessary. Obviously if your child has sickness or diarrhoea, please do keep them at home for 48 hours from the time of their last bout of illness. If they return to school earlier than this, we will send them straight back home!

Please remember that absence from school can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. I have had a significant number of children absent from school recently due to birthdays (their own or those of other family members), or days out to places such as Lapland UK! This is not acceptable, and these absences cannot, and will not, be authorised. Please be aware that such absences are incredibly disruptive to both your own child's education, and also to that of the other members of their class, as teaching staff have to work with them to support them in catching up with the learning they have missed. Unfortunately, these absences are rather more common than I would like, and I would hope that serious consideration is given to any future absences from school. Thank you for your support and understanding.

## **Christmas events at Leybourne Church**

Please find attached a flyer for all of the activities and services that will be happening at Leybourne Church over the Christmas period. As the flyer says, the Church is inclusive – everyone is welcome and there really is something for everyone to take part in and celebrate this Christmas.

The Churchwardens and wider Church community did a wonderful job keeping the Church open and running for the benefit of the Parish whilst a new priest was being recruited. Now we have an incredibly strong and supportive Team Ministry, who are all so keen to be involved in the life of our school – we really are lucky to be in such a fortunate position.

*Nurturing the spark of God within*

*“Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles” Isaiah 40:31*



## **Communication**

Just a reminder that the online platforms Tapestry and Seesaw, used in Reception and Key Stage 1, should only be used as platforms to support the children's learning, please. They should not be used as a means of passing messages to teaching staff (for example, about collection arrangements, reading books, friendship issues or any other concerns) – these messages should be emailed to the school office where they will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff, or sent into school as a separate written note for staff. Thank you.

## **Mrs Smith's Choir and Singers!**

The school had a very special treat yesterday, when Mrs Smith's choir and singers performed in the school hall. Although I was not able to attend, due to being on a course with Mrs Grinstead, I have seen and heard a recording, and have heard so many descriptions of the children's amazing performances. It takes real courage to perform in front of an audience, and I am so proud of each and every one of the children who took part. My thanks go to Mrs Smith for all her skill and hard work in supporting the children and preparing them to take centre stage.

## **PTFA Christmas Fayre – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 11am – 2pm**

Just a reminder that the Christmas Fayre is taking place tomorrow – we hope to see you all there. Members of the PTFA have been incredibly busy today (and in the past few weeks!) to ensure that we will all have a wonderful time, with plenty to do, buy, eat and drink. Please do come along and support us!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend, and look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas Fayre tomorrow.

Best wishes

Tina Holditch  
Headteacher