



Dear Parents and Carers

What a week! They say that learning is a lifelong pursuit and I can agree wholeheartedly with that statement. This week, I have learned a huge amount about meteorology and discovered that the salt that is used on roads doesn't work properly below -9 degrees. Who knew...?!?

The decision to close a school is always a last resort and is the outcome of a lot of very careful consideration and deliberation. It doesn't just depend on the conditions on the ground but is also dependent upon the availability of staff. A lot of my staff live quite a long way away from school and have to travel some distance to get here. I am therefore very grateful and full of admiration for all my staff who, without exception, travelled through the ice and snow to be here to teach your children and provide them with a memorable school day. As one boy said to me out on the field at lunchtime; "Mr Mitchell, this is the best school day ever...can you put my glove on please!". Sums it up for me!

Maintaining some sense of normality has been a little tricky at times and I am very appreciative of everyone's support. A special thanks goes to Mrs Sallis and her husband Dave who have both worked so hard to help us stay open. There are some lovely photos on the website if you are interested to know what a snowy playtime is like. Thank you for your continuing support.

Andy Mitchell (Head Forecaster)

## What's Going On .....

Monday 18th December

2.00pm & 6.00pm Years 3 & 4 Christmas Production  
— Lights, Camel, Action!

Thursday 21st December Saplings Christmas Party

Friday 22nd December—

Christmas Jumper/Festive Clothes Day

Christmas Dinner

Last Day of Autumn Term

(Finish usual times—3.15pm/3.20pm)

Reception and Saplings children have been working very hard, rehearsing and practicing for their Christmas production.

Well done Reception.  
You have been amazing today!



## Governor Focus

The snow and ice provided a bit of distraction this week. The decision whether to close the school is made by the Chair of Governors in consultation with the head teacher. It is a difficult decision to make as there is always uncertainty as to what lies ahead especially when we try to give as much notice as possible. We never wish to close the school unnecessarily and understand the problems this causes for parent and children, but in emergency situations we sometimes need to do so. This decision is based on a number of factors; The priority MUST be to ensure the safety of children. The school needs to be in full working order and in a safe condition to accept children (heating, electricity, water, the building, cooking facilities must be operational.) The school MUST have the correct ratio of staff to look after the children. We need to be aware that some staff travel a very long way to get to work and may put themselves in danger doing so in poor weather conditions. Let's hope for slightly warmer and more settled weather as we approach the end of term.

## Attendance News



Highest class attendance for last week—Class 2B (Miss List) with 99.3%!

Whole school attendance to date - 96.2% (school target 96.5%)

Pupils with 100% to date = 135 pupils = 34%

Following recent school closure, extract of email from a parent ...

I would like to thank Mr Mitchell and all staff for making every effort to keep the school closure to a bare minimum thus ensuring our children's education (and safety) is kept an upmost priority! There has been criticism for opening the school and in today's society some are quick to complain but rarely take the time to show appreciation. By opening the school, it is not only minimising disruption to our children's education, but also teaching them that what ever the weather, life can (and should) continue as normal with necessary safety measures in place. The walk in this morning was a little dicey to say the least but it was all part of the experience and my son found it hilarious despite slipping over numerous times! So, once again, thank you to every single member of staff for making the school safe and making every effort to get to work so our children's education can continue.



## eSafety

Note down the times your child is gaming or on social media every day. Are you surprised by the amount of time, or is this more or less as you expected? Does this need to change?

Recommended KS2 website:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?e=reading01>  
Children need to develop their deduction skills in reading; play this exciting reasoning game to escape from the tower.

## Pupil Voice (This week— School Council)

### Don't' Bin It, Bag It—Update

Thank you to everyone who helped with donations for the above competition. Although we did not win, it was a great effort and lots of recycling was done! Anyway .... It's not always about winning, is it?! It's the taking part that's important.

The school council look forward to seeing everyone in their Christmas jumpers/festive clothes on the last day of term (Friday 22nd December) - no donations necessary.



## Focus on Excellence

Year 2 had an exciting visit from our local Fire Service. We had built model houses to represent Pudding Lane and we watched the fire-fighters set fire to the houses to re-enact the Great Fire of London. They safely put out the fire for us and then we had a chance to sit inside a real fire engine!

The fire-fighters showed us the equipment on the engine and we asked questions about fire safety.



## Other News .....

**Christmas Dinner** A quick reminder that our Christmas dinner is on the last day of term and the options are therefore either roast turkey or a quorn fillet (and not as advertised on the published menu). There will be NO jacket potato option on that day.

**Upper Key Stage Two Residential Trips** Please make sure that your payments are up to date on either the Marle Hall Trip or Cornwall Trip (or both, if you have children in both year groups). The latest Marle Hall payment is due today, 15th December. For the Cornwall trip, the latest payment was due on 30th November.

**Lost Property** A final reminder for this term to come and have a look at our Lost Property box (located near the school office). We do not have the capacity to store Lost Property indefinitely and any items left there at the end of this term will be donated to the Air Ambulance clothing bank, situated on our site.

## Community News

Tonight is the Carol Concert in the garden of Woodloes Tavern, starting at 5.30pm. We look forward to seeing lots of you enjoying Christmas Carols with other members of the community.

Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where active members of local communities join with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. On Monday 27th November at Ridgeway School, volunteers from the Woodloes estate received training on using a speed gun from a traffic officer and are now ready to go and start monitoring speeding traffic around the estate. Visit <https://www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk/> for further details.

On Saturday 16th December, Carols at Warwick Castle will be taking place from 7.30pm. Telephone 01926 406660 or email [events@warwick-castle.com](mailto:events@warwick-castle.com) for more details.