



6th January 2011

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

Welcome back to term 3 at school - I do hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable break.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused by the alterations to the entrance to the school site, that took place over the holiday. As you can see the building site has extended across the front of the school, which has meant that the staff car park has also had to be shifted across (and made smaller!). The pedestrian entrance to the school is now shared with the Slade Nursery School. At the moment there is no way for people to walk into the school through the car park - and of course for safety reasons we don't want children moving through the car park. I have, however, asked the builders to look at widening the entrance to the shared pathway to make it less congested. In the meantime whilst we look at possible improvements I will have to ask you to bear with us: we have reminded the children about the importance of taking care with bikes and scooters and pushing, not riding them on the school site. Can I also ask people kindly not to tie dogs to the railings outside the gate as this just adds to the congestion.

Important message for parents of children who may qualify for Free School Meals

As I reminded everyone before the holidays, one of the ways that the government decides on the amounts of funding to give schools is by counting the numbers of children who are eligible for free school meals, **even if they aren't having them**. You may have heard about the government's new **Pupil Premium**. This is money to support the learning of children from less well off backgrounds - but we will only be given the funding based on numbers registered for free school meals in **January**. In a school like ours this can make a big difference to the funding we receive. Please contact us urgently if you could qualify for free school meals but aren't claiming them.

After School Club will be opening next week, providing after school care until 6:00 during term times and run by staff from the Children's Centre and the school. The club will be managed by the Children's Centre - if you missed the registration form please ask in the school office.

Swine 'Flu: I am sure you will have heard in the news about rising numbers of Swine 'Flu cases in recent weeks. We have reminded children about the importance of good hand washing, and of using a tissue if they have a cough or a runny nose - and it would be very helpful if you could give your children the same reminders at home. Please remember that if your child is ill with a temperature he or she should not be at school - **please telephone us in the morning from 8:30 if your child is unwell and unable to come to school**. If, however, your child is well but someone else in your family is poorly there is no need to keep your child off school (this is the advice previously issued to schools when flu was widespread).

Please keep an eye on the weather!

With snow being predicted for this week please continue to listen out for emergency announcements if you think the school might be affected. Emergency announcements are made on **BBC Radio Oxford 95.2 FM**, and can also be found on www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures

With best wishes from Mr Lewin and everyone at the school.



'Children leave the school as confident, well rounded individuals' Ofsted 2009

www.wood-farm.oxon.sch.uk