Dear parents/ carers

Today is the end of the first half term of the year. It's been jam packed. A few of my personal highlights have been:

> Swimming – the pool being at school has been fabulous. The children who have had the chance to swim have really enjoyed it – and the progress they have made has been excellent. (We have already booked the pool for the same fortnight next year when next year's Year 4 and 5 will swim daily)
>
> The new 'Values' certificates on Fridays – the reasons children have earned these have been a joy to hear.
>
> The poetry assembly – and especially watching Year R perform their poem for the whole school on the first time they came into the hall for a Celebration of the Word
>
> The way the school football team have conducted themselves – and played with spirit and fairness – until the final minute of games (to either score a last-minute equaliser – or to make an exceptional last-minute triple save to preserve a draw!)

Uniform:

A reminder – when we return after half term, we move into winter uniform – full details here.

Please remember to make sure your child has a coat every day! Also make sure their PE kit is in school every day.

Children do mislay uniform regularly in school – it really makes a difference is if every piece of clothing is named – it doesn't need to be using fancy labels – a permanent marker on the label is just as effective!

Birthdays:

Following the introduction of Benedict's Law and this strengthened approach to allergy safety, we have made the decision that cakes, sweets or treats should no longer be brought into school to share with other children for birthdays.

We know this may be disappointing to some – however, we need to be more careful to make sure that all children in school are protected.

On birthdays, children are invited to come in their own home clothes (or on the day closest to their birthday if it is on a weekend or during a school holiday). When they do, they are always celebrated in class and outside of class by staff and peers alike.

Fidgets and equipment coming from home:

We have seen an increase in children bringing their own fidgets from home. If you feel your child would benefit from a fidget in school, please either speak to your child's teacher – or email SENDCo@djf.srscmat.co.uk – to discuss this. We have a large and varied collection of fidgets in school that are appropriate for use in the classroom. Children who have fidgets in school also do get the opportunity to change this regularly.

Likewise, school provides all stationary such as pens, pencils, rulers etc – that children need. Please do not send in 'home stationary' for use in class.

Phones:

The local Smartphone Free Childhood parent/carer group have asked us to share this very brief survey with you. It is completely anonymous and should only take a couple of minutes to complete. The aim of the survey is to get a better picture of parents and carers' views locally regarding children and smartphones, and what support you might like with this, especially as children move towards secondary school age.

Please click here to complete the survey:

https://forms.gle/6nbzxpNZkAzi4P2E8

You can also visit https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org for more information and helpful resources for families.

Parking:

A few parents have spoken to me recently about parking around school. Please do make sure you park safely and respectfully in the areas around school. Many of our parents bring pushchairs to school for younger siblings so please do not block pavements.

Little Rainbows next door has asked for parents not to use their car park when dropping to or collecting from school.

I hope you all have a lovely and relaxing half term – don't forget Monday 2nd November 2026 is an INSET day – we will see you all back on Tuesday 3rd November 2026. Dates and photo reminders are on the next pages!

Best wishes

Graham Lobb

Headteacher

November:

Tuesday 3rd	- Back to School
Friday 6th	- Y5 retreat
Monday 9th –	- Parent's Evening
Tuesday 10th	– Parent's Evening (not Year 5)
Wednesday 11th	- Remembrance Day
Wednesday 11th	– Parent's Evening (Year 5 only)
Thursday 12th	- Y5 Harvest CotW 9am / Breakfast (8:30am->)
w/c Monday 16th	- Anti-bullying week
Friday 20th	- World Youth Funday (details TBC)
Monday 23rd	- Flu Jabs in school
Tuesday 24th	- Y1 retreat
Thursday 26th	- Brave the Shave shaving ceremony 2:30pm
Friday 27th	- Advent CotW (2:30pm)

December:

Tuesday 1st	- Mass (St Ralph Sherwin) 11:00am at EM Church
Thursday 3rd	- Y1 CotW 9am / Breakfast (8:30am->)
Wednesday 9th	- KS1 Christmas Performance 10am
Thursday 10th	- KS1 Christmas Performance 2pm
Monday 14th	- Christingle Service 2:30pm (followed by PTFA Raffle Draw)
Tuesday 15th	- Christmas party day/ Christmas Disco (2-4pm)
Wednesday 16th	- Whole School Panto trip
Thursday 17th	- Christmas Lunch (and Jumpers)
Friday 18th	- Carols around the Tree (10am and 2pm)
	- Break up for Christmas holiday

Raise £500 – and we'll brave the shave..... please have sponsor money back by Monday 23rd November 2026

As part of Christmas Party Day – further details to follow....

For I know the plans I have for you; plans to give you hope and a future – Jeremiah 29:11