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# Educating For 'Life In All Its Fullness'

10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Happy New Year

Dear Families,

This afternoon in our certificate assembly we said well done to the following children, for making the extra effort to impress with their work, or their behaviour and attitude. Well done to all of you.

<b><u>Class 1</u></b>
<b><u>Excellent Early Learners</u></b> Milli L and Skye R
<b><u>Class 2</u></b>
Wonderful Work: Harry N Brilliant Behaviour: Savani S
<b><u>Class 3</u></b>
Wonderful Work: Seif A Brilliant Behaviour: Leo H
<b><u>Class 4</u></b>
Wonderful Work: Sophie L Brilliant Behaviour: Jack B

It was good to welcome everyone back to school this week despite the weather difficulties. I thank you for your co-operation with us starting slightly later on Monday. That gave us chance to get staff safely to school and make sure the site was safe for the children.

We always try our best to stay open when we can, and are often open when other schools are closed, even though many of our staff and children travel a good distance to be with us. Monday saw well over 100 Leeds schools closed, or partly closed, Tuesday was not much better and there were still over 50 closed on Wednesday.

Snowy mornings are always a difficult call. We have to make sure we have enough staff and the school site is safe for the children to access. I am well aware that closing school can cause massive issues for families so will always try our best to be open. Whatever the decision, it will cause problems for some and it is often quite debateable one way or the other, so thank you again for your patience and adaptability. Hopefully, that is it for snow for this year, but who knows...

It sounds like the children enjoyed sledging, building snowmen and many other things in the snow last Sunday, so it is not all bad.



The poor weather at the start of the week was an example of why school needs accurate contact details for families. Please always remember to update us with new addresses, phone numbers and emails if you ever make a change. This includes emergency contacts like wider family members or grandparents.

### School Attendance

I know that this week has had its own unique problems, but as we start the new school year, I would like to remind families about the importance of school attendance and arriving on time every morning. We are the termly attendance audit in the next couple of weeks and we will be in touch with families if your child's attendance is below 90% (This is classed as Persistently Absent by the DfE) or if there have been a significant number of late arrivals on a morning.

As a reminder, we open the gates at 8.40am and they close at 8.50am. After this time the children should enter school by the main office and be signed in by a parent with a reason for the late arrival. Arrivals after 9.15am are classed as being after the registers have closed and this session will be recorded as being an unauthorised absence, unless there is a valid reason and school is notified.

Please also be aware that there is now the potential for families to be fined for having 10 unauthorised sessions in a 10 week period under the current attendance guidance (This is 5 school days as a day is classed as 2 sessions). Families with regular late attendance or things like holidays in term times, may fall into this category.

Attendance in schools is a high priority for the Government and whilst attendance at Harewood is generally very good, there may be times when some children could be in school and are not.

### SEND Consultation Sessions

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January Mrs Dodd will be available to meet with parents regarding Special Educational Needs. Like with other Parents Evenings, families will be able to book a slot with her online at a time to suit.

These sessions are primarily a chance for families of children with additional needs to meet with Mrs Dodd as our Special Needs Co-ordinator, but there will be some available slots for families who would like to meet with her who are concerned that their child may have an additional Special Need, which school could support with.

Please look out for booking details being sent out to families in the coming days.

### PTA Film Night

Our PTA Slumber Nights are coming soon! **Class 1 and 2 on Jan 17th** showing "The Minions" and **Class 3 and 4 on Jan 24th** showing "Despicable Me 2". Tickets include pizza, popcorn, sweets and drinks. More info and booking at [www.pta-events.co.uk/harewoodpta/](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/harewoodpta/)

Many thanks

PTA

(Please Remember that Sunset Club is only until 4.30pm on a Friday)



## Wellbeing Quote for the Month

A new year and a thought about starting a new chapter in your life.

The New year is like a blank book, the pen is in your hands, it is your chance to write a beautiful story for yourself.

Happy New Year

## Dates for next Half Term

Date	Event
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Write Like a Poet Workshops – KS2
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Y5 trip to Boston Spa Academy
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	No Celebration Assembly.
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	KS1 PTA Film Night
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	SEND Consultations
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	KS2 PTA Film Night
WB 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Children's Mental Health Week
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	MindMate Workshops (Managing Emotions)
WB 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Book Fair Week
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Class 4 – Young Voices Concert
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes today for the half term break

*Additional dates will be added once confirmed*

Haver a good weekend.

Mr Ratcliffe

