



John Ray Infant School

"learning together, aiming high, proud to be ourselves"

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Brrrrrrr – it has been a cold one this week. But as an owner of two dogs then I am definitely grateful for this over the rain and mud!

Firstly, some sad news. After 18 years of working in both the school office and then as the School Business Manager then Mrs Rushen will be leaving us next Friday. Mrs Rushen has been a dedicated and passionate member of our school community, playing a huge part in the development of our own school nursery as well as initiating the ever popular and oversubscribed Tiddlywinkers after school club. Mrs Rushen will be hugely missed and we wish her all the best in her new role working for Juniper Finance.

We have been focusing this week during assemblies on one of our learning behaviours – perseverance. KS1 looked at lots of funny animal videos with me on Monday in which the cat or panda didn't give up on their goal (even if this was getting a huge stick across a bridge!). I have seen plenty of practical examples of children applying this during some visits to class, whether it be learning a tricky new sound or persevering with their writing when things are tricky.

As it is the start of a new year, please can both you and your child try and have a refreshed focus on ideally both reading and home learning, but especially reading. It is so important for children to get daily opportunities to practise and apply the skills they have learnt in school. This increases their fluency and confidence – also improving their chances of accessing other areas of the curriculum.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind you of the school uniform requirements. In this weather children should always have a coat in school with them for playtimes and lunchtimes. Although jumpers and cardigans do not show our school logo, they should be red. PE kit should be a PLAIN red or black tracksuit with a PLAIN white t shirt – these should not include big logos of computer games or disney characters. If you are struggling financially and finding it difficult to fund this then we have lots of preloved uniform in the office which you are welcome to take. If your child is in receipt of the 'pupil premium grant' and you can not afford the correct uniform then please see me on the gate, or email, and we can look into how we may be able to support you in this.

We know that the beginning of the year can be particularly difficult for some families financially. I have foodbank vouchers that I can allocate if you require, we also have a number of tins and long life food in the lobby by the office which you can help yourself to. Thank you to the parent who generously funded our latest delivery.

If your working circumstances have recently changed and you are now in receipt of universal credit or any other benefits then please let Mrs O'Malley in the office know as she can check whether we may be able to access additional funding in school for your child.

In assembly this week we will be learning the song – One in a Million. I have added this and ‘Count on Me’ to the Assembly Songs 23/24 Playlist on Sing Up if the children want to have a little look before using their sing up log ins. If you can not find or remember this then speak to your class teacher.

L Christian

Mrs Christian
Headteacher

