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15 December 2011

Dear Parents

We are once again at the end of what has been an extremely busy and productive term; our pupils have participated in various trips, theatres, museums, educational workshops, (the infant and nursery pupils were very excited by the Pantomime, Aladdin, and UII & LIII thoroughly enjoyed the Victorian School Room Christmas Activities held at Reading Museum). The autumn term culminates in numerous Christmas festivities and parties including the carol service, the Christmas concert, the Christmas Fair and the junior and infant plays.

Support of Charities - I am delighted to report that we have supported the following worthwhile charities:-

- Churches in Reading Drop-In Centre
- Jeans for Genes
- BBC Children in Need
- MacMillan Cancer
- Barnardo's

I would like to thank our pupils, parents and staff for their generosity; I was amazed by how many cakes our parents provided for the cake sale for BBC Children In Need. The cakes all sold, every single one of them, and I think that every member of the school, including teachers, ate rather more cake than they should have. The staff have made donations to MacMillan Cancer instead of exchanging Christmas Cards between themselves. Pupils, staff and parents delighted the shoppers of Caversham with their Carolling. The Victorian Sandwich Cake Recipe sales also go towards this worthwhile charity, and finally the collection at the Carol Service was taken, at the request of our Head Girl, Lauren Phillips, for the Barnardo's Charity. Thank you all so very much.

Uniform - A few of our pupils are not adhering to our uniform code; please ensure that the correct uniform is purchased from our supplier, Jacksons of Reading. Parental support on this matter is very much appreciated. In this cold weather please ensure that your child is provided with a plain warm navy coat (black or navy for seniors) and appropriate winter shoes.

Health - In order to avoid germs spreading I would like to remind parents that it is school policy that pupils who have suffered with stomach upsets should remain at home for 24 hours after vomiting and diarrhoea have ceased. Also parents of our younger pupils who have coughs, colds, sore throats etc., are requested to keep them at home until they are well, as these germs are spread so easily. Parents should telephone the school, in the morning if their child is unwell and will be absent from school; if the child needs to remain at home for more than one day a letter to their form teacher should be sent in on their return to school, otherwise the absence will be classified as unauthorised. I would take this opportunity to remind parents that any extra days' holiday should only be sought under exceptional circumstances and will only be granted at my discretion.

Holiday Care - There are still places available in the holiday care; if you are running out of time for Christmas shopping and Christmas preparations and would like to book your child in for a morning or afternoon session to play with their friends, please telephone the school.

Homework - Our senior girls and upper juniors fulfil many homework tasks using computers; please ensure your sons and daughters have access to a working computer and printer. A memory stick would make an excellent and useful stocking filler that our pupils could use for their school work. They may be worn on a ribbon or lanyard round their necks in school. All work should be saved on a home computer, in their electronic school folder and on a memory stick.

Safety - Whilst wishing to encourage our pupils to walk, cycle or scoot to school, I do have concerns for the safety of all our pupils both on the school drive and outside the school along Hemdean Road. I would ask parents of our youngest children to be particularly vigilant when walking out of school with them. I would also like you to note that children are not allowed to cycle or scoot on the school drive; on the way into and out of school, they should dismount and push their bicycles or scooters up or down the drive. Please remember that parents' cars may not be driven into the school drive.

PTA - The PTA has asked me to thank you for the support they received regarding the Halloween Disco; it proved to be popular and successful, thanks to those who helped and those who supported the events. Many thanks also to those parents who have donated items for the Christmas Raffle and who supported the Christmas fair in any way. The children certainly enjoyed seeing Father Christmas and making their Christmas purchases and the magnificent sum of £1,370 was raised. The PTA will be holding their next meeting on Wednesday 18th January in the HEU – please join them.

Reports - Parents of junior, infant and nursery pupils should all have received a report with this letter; please send the receipt slip in at the beginning of next term.

ASC/Holiday Care - From the beginning of the spring term, the fees for this facility will be as set out below:

After School Care – Session (collect before 6 pm)	£10
After School Care – Short Session (collect before 5 pm)	£7
After School Care – Very Short Session (collect before 4 pm)	£3
Holiday Care per day – (8.30 am – 6.00 pm)	£25
Holiday Care per session – (am or pm)	£14

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful new year. I look forward to welcoming enthusiastic boys and girls back, after the Christmas break, on Monday 9th January ready to embrace the new term with all the numerous events, outings etc., that the spring term brings.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Harris
Headmistress

Name of child.....Class

Parent's comments on the report

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I have received my child's report.

Parent's signature