



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had an enjoyable and restful festive season. I was privileged to be asked to read one of the 9 lessons in the Christmas carol service at St Peter's Church on the Sunday before Christmas. It was a lovely event and wonderful to see many of our families there. I also had the joy of watching one of our children perform in Aladdin at the Everyman theatre on Christmas Eve. I could not have felt more proud watching Rebecca (Y5) take centre stage and perform so beautifully. A shining example of our school vision 'To be the best you can be' in action. Well done Rebecca.

Many thanks to Children, Parents and staff from the Children's Society for the £292.93 raised at Christingle.

#### Staffing News

This week we welcomed Mrs Lucy Spicer to the teaching team. She will be teaching Reception Yellow on Thursdays and Fridays. Parents of Reception yellow were emailed a letter on Wednesday about this.

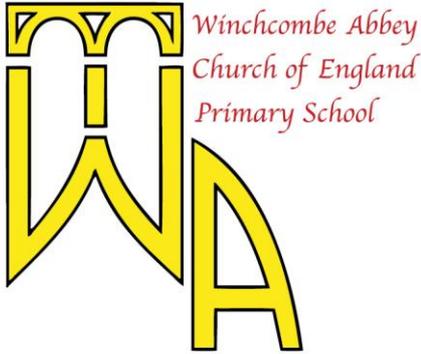
Sadly, Ms Alice Coles resigned her position at the end of term. Alice has moved on from her role as Parent support advisor in order to fully utilise her psychotherapy qualification that she has been working hard over the least two years to attain. She will be much missed and we wish her well in her new professional endeavours.

As a result of this Mrs Tomlins has increased the capacity of the pastoral team with Ms Hext joining it full time alongside Mrs O'Callaghan. They will be working as a team to provide pastoral support to children and families who require it.

We have been joined by 5 students from Monmouth University in Chicago since the start of term. They will be with us until Friday 18th January to learn more about the education system here. We are all learning a lot about the American education system from them and a lot about their country.

#### Reminders

A new year and a new start for us all so I am going to take the opportunity to refresh you all on a few key pieces of school information.



### Uniform

May I remind you that following a relaxation of the rules in the run up to Christmas, children are now expected to wear correct school uniform at all times, without embellishments such as fancy hair bands and bows, make up or nail varnish or unsuitable footwear.

### Absence from school

Term time absences will not be authorised unless the circumstances are **EXCEPTIONAL**. Applications should be made no less than 2 weeks before the date of absence and through the completion of an absence request form which can be obtained from the school website or office.

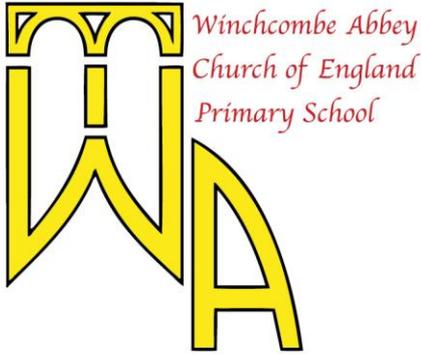
Medical appointments should, where possible, be outside of school time but where this is unavoidable school is expected to ask for proof of appointments which need to be taken during school time.

### Healthy eating

We strive to promote healthy eating at school, wherever possible, and would ask that no sweets or chocolate are sent in packed lunches. Due to allergies we also ask that no nut products are sent in, this includes peanut butter in sandwiches. Thank you  
Start and end of the day

Children are not allowed on the school site before 8.40 am. There is no one to take responsibility for them before that time. I also need to remind parents of Y6 children who walk to and from school with their parents' permission that parents are responsible for them until they arrive at the classroom. Please remember that class teachers are very busy at the start of day ensuring they are prepared to receive their pupils. They are not able to give parents who approach them their undivided attention. Please leave queries until the end of the day if you possibly can or with the school office. The class pages of the website now give the email contact details for all class teachers so parents can pass on non-urgent information to teachers electronically if that is appropriate.

Dogs are not allowed onto the school premises. Thank you for your cooperation with this.



### Forthcoming Dates

As you know we keep the calendar on the school website up to date so please check there for future events and term dates.

Year 5 and 6 will be taking part in Young Voices on Thursday evening. For information, the following classes will be leading class worship this term at 9 am in the school hall to which their parents/carers are invited.

25th January - Year 4 Mrs Jefferies/Mrs Ellison

8th February - Year 3/4 Mrs Wheatcroft/Mrs Ellison

8th March - Year 3 Mr Mooney

22nd March - Year 5 Mrs Clargo/Mrs Taylor

Whole school worship will take place in St Peters Church on Wednesday 23rd January, 30th January, 13th February, 13th March, 20th March. Parents are as always welcome to attend worship in church with us. We aim to begin as soon as the children walk over at 9am.

Finally, congratulations to Avon house who were awarded the greatest number of house points last term. As a result, they may come to school on Friday 18th January in non-school uniform for the day (please ensure it is appropriate for the weather conditions and that shoes are suitable!)

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Johnson'.

Mrs Sally Johnson