



January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a good start to the new year and that your children have settled back to the normal school routine. Things are looking up for Crowland and we have some new initiatives coming our way, in addition to the exciting learning taking place on a day to day basis. We want to kick start our year with strong resolutions, one being that of improving our attendance rates which have fallen during the autumn term due to a sudden rise in colds and flu. The weather is looking up and spring is on its way, so exciting things ahead. We wish you a happy month and a great 2023!
Ms Stav and Mr Winnard



Diary Dates:

February Half Term:

Monday 13th - Friday 17th February 2023

Pendarren Trip:

Monday 13th – Friday 17th March 2023

Easter Holiday Break:

Monday 3rd - Friday 14th April 2023

Parent meeting on 'Healthy Eating'

Monday 17th April 2023

Teaching our children Internet Safety



In Crowland Primary School, we learn a lot about online safety and we teach our children how to stay safe especially in relation to online risks. With current social media being used by younger people more than ever before, it is crucial to maintain maximum surveillance over your children's activities and be extra vigilant around their online communication. As a school we discourage the use of any group chats such as 'WhatsApp', 'Skype' and the like; In addition to ensuring safety we want to avoid cyberbullying which we sadly encounter from time to time.

Please check the links below for some helpful parental advice:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#guides>

School Attendance

Government guidelines have become even more stringent on school attendance than ever before. As a school, we aim for an overall 96% attendance by all our pupils. We did make exceptions during the pandemic to allow some of our families to see long distance relatives but this is no longer the case. We are unable to approve absence during term time with the possibility of issuing fines to families for persistence absence. Since September, the school has had to unfortunately issue fines to 3 families with one family facing prospective court charges. We hold regular clinics to discuss any children who come to our attention due to recurring or unauthorised absence and we have a staged approach of communication before it reaches the last resort. We urge you to please ensure that your child comes to school as far as possible. We all need to make a joined concerted effort to make sure our children receive the full-time education that they are entitled to.

Thank you!

Assemblies on 'Equality'

Some of our recent assemblies have focused on understanding the concept of 'Equality' and what that means in relevant terms. In KS2, we used the birthday celebration of Martin Luther King on the 17th January to consider all forms of inequality through a series of follow up assemblies.

Children were very engaged in considering the concepts of 'equality and inequality' in relation to gender, race and economic disadvantage. We discussed how some children in the world have the right to an education while others have to work, how some women may have unequal opportunities in some professions and how some people experience injustice due to racial difference. Such themes are covered through our British Values curriculum and PSHE but it is important for you also to continue exploring such issues at home in order to develop your children's awareness and critical thinking skills.



Our Safer Streets Programme

We want to inform you that we are continuing our efforts to establish a mutually agreeable plan towards making the streets around our school safer. We have had recent meetings with local community groups and with our neighbouring Gladesmore Community School in order to continue efforts towards full implementation. We are hoping that the local authority will support us with the plans. We are very hopeful!

Our Swimming Pool may be Back Soon!

In anticipation of a new project, we want to share some exciting updates regarding the renovation of our swimming pool. As some of you may be aware we have a swimming pool on Crowland School premises which has had to lay dormant for a few years due to high renovation costs. In the past, Crowland swimming pool was used by its pupils as well as by other neighbouring schools. We have now been approached by a new company and we are in the process of agreeing renovation plans. If things go according to plan, it means we will gain back the use of our swimming pool and will soon be able to offer swimming lessons to our pupils. The company will also offer lessons outside of school hours. We are feeling very excited at the prospect while trying to remain calm and cool headed until all agreements have been finalised. We will keep you updated with any new information.



Healthy Food Choices

Our Accent Catering manager Ian Harman, visited our school with a wonderful selection of salads so that our school councillors can choose their favourite ones. Our salad bar is available on a daily basis and many of our children now enjoy a selection of exciting choices.

Making the right food choices is a healthy life skill and we encourage independence from a young age. Based on parent feedback we have now reduced the availability of sweet dessert and have replaced these with fruits and yoghurt.

On 17th April, we have our nutritionist **Dr Pippa** from Accent Catering, visiting our school in order to meet with parents or carers and talk about healthy eating. It will be a great chance to catch up on any worries or concerns about children's diet choices.

