

# A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 6th January 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, I would like to wish you a very Happy New Year. I sincerely hope that you all had a very good Christmas break and were able to enjoy the festivities. Welcome back! Christmas is now a long and forgotten memory, and I am hoping to continue with my own personal 2023 resolutions in order to spark a positive change. Whatever your own resolutions are – I sincerely hope that you will succeed.

Thank you once more on behalf of all of us here for your very generous Christmas gifts. They are always very much appreciated by all of us. This year, as an alternative to our usual Secret Santa, the staff decided to play “Secret Santa” for the homeless instead. Through the charity High Wycombe Homeless Connection, we donated items from the charity’s wish list including food and clothing. We all felt that this will be a good way to give something back to our community.

I am pleased to say that the children seem to have settled well and although it is only the second day of the new term, they appear focused on learning new things. It was such a pleasure to see their smiling faces during yesterday’s assembly. This gives me an opportunity to welcome any new joiners to the school this term, including our new class teachers Miss Lang (4A) and Mrs Cave -Hawkes (6DR). I sincerely hope that you will be able to settle quickly into our routines and will enjoy everything that this school has to offer.

Our value for this half-term is ‘Collaborative.’ I held an assembly for the children on their first day back, where I explained the above term to them. I encouraged the children to be collaborative in school and at home. This means helping with household chores, playing with siblings (if applicable), helping within a wider family circle. I explained to the children the importance of teamwork, essential communication and social skills, active listening and effective speaking. I am hoping that our children will continue to listen well to one another and cooperate during lessons and playtime to function as one cohesive unit. I hope that you will be able to support our work. Many thanks.

I always feel slightly uncomfortable asking parents for charitable donations for the school - especially this year and in view of the cost-of-living crisis. However, I am sure that you are familiar with a wider financial agenda facing many schools this academic year. Whilst our school is in a sound financial position, we, like lots of schools are having to make choices regarding the resources and extra opportunities that we can offer the children. As the phrase goes “every little helps” therefore if you are able to donate, either as a regular donation through bank transfer or a one-off donation, please contact the school office ([office@wsd.odbst.org](mailto:office@wsd.odbst.org)) and we can provide you with the relevant details. Thank you in advance for your support in this.

As it is the beginning of the term, I would like to remind all parents that in line with the latest government’s directive, the school is obliged to pass on your details to the local authority for issuing a fine if your child takes a holiday during term time. The fine currently stands at £60.00 per child. The ‘trigger’ point is if your child misses ten sessions and this equates to five school days. As a Headteacher, I am accountable for actions that the school takes in relation to tackling absenteeism. The school does not benefit financially from any fines issued, as money goes to the local authority. I thought that I should make this clear.

As in last term we will continue to contact parents/carers directly if and when we are concerned about your child’s attendance so that we can support you. I am sure that you understand and appreciate the importance of regular school attendance and will do your utmost to ensure that your child attends school on a regular basis. Please continue to call into the office if your child is unwell and needs to recover at home. The NHS website page—[is my child too ill for school](#)—has lots of useful information.

Finally, I enclose our Termly Letters. Please spend time reading your child’s class letter as you will find all the necessary information relating to our curriculum, homework, PE days and extra-curricular activities. Please click on your child’s year group below to view the relevant letter.

[Year 3](#), [Year 4](#), [Year 5](#) and [Year 6](#).

I am looking forward to working with our Woodside community. It is going to be a fantastic term!

Dorota Milner, Headteacher

## House Point Totals

Carried over from last term	2534	<b>2782</b>	2413	2757
	<b>Maple</b>	<b>Willow</b>	<b>Elm</b>	<b>Cedar</b>

## Dates for your diary

Date	Event
w/c 9th Jan	All afterschool clubs start back
16.1.23	Young Voices at the O2
21.1.23	Cross Country Event—Lowndes Park, Chesham
1.2.23	Year 5 Cross Country at The Misbourne School
2.2.23	Year 3 Mega-Fest Rugby at Dr Challoner’s
7.2.23	GB Athlete Visit
13.2.23 – 17.2.23	<b>Half Term break</b>
21.2.23	Bags 2 School Collection
4.3.22	Cross Country Event—Little Misenden
20.3.23-24.3.23	Yr6 Residential
30.3.23	Year 3 Dance Festival at Dr Challoner’s
31.3.23	<b>Break up at 1.30pm on Friday 31st March.</b> <b>No Hideout Zone afterschool club on last day of term. Breakfast club is still available. Return to school Monday 17th April.</b>
1.5.23	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
5.5.23	Year 4 Tri Golf Festival at Chiltern Hills Academy
8.5.23	<b>Additional BANK HOLIDAY- His Majesty’s coronation</b>
9.5.23	Year 3 Tennis event at Dr Challoner’s
17.6.23	PTA Summer Fair—SAVE THE DATE