19th October 2018

Dear Parent and Carers

What a great first half term we have had! 26 new pupils have joined us and all are settling into their new routines and new classes. The children all look smart in their new uniforms and not many jumpers have been lost! Please make sure you name your child’s clothes, especially their school jumper.

Next week is half term, so enjoy some family time and have fun. We come back to school on **Monday 29th October**.

**Harvest Festival**

Thank you everyone who brought food into school for our Harvest Festival. We donated over 138kg of food! This will help lots of people who need food from the Food Bank in Wirral.

**PE Kits**

Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school every day. We encourage pupils to keep it into school until the holidays, when it is sent home to be washed. Pupils need a white t-shirt, dark shorts and trainers/pumps. All items must be named.

**House Fund Raising**

This term each house has been raising money for their chosen charity. They have raised approximately £400 for The Hog Centre, Claire House, Charles Mission and MacMillan. They have held non uniform days and cake sales to raise the money. Well done Team Orrets supporting our local community charities.

**Parents Meetings**

The week commencing the 19th November we will be holding parent meetings so you can meet your teacher, see how they have settled in and talk about their successes up to now and things they need to work on this term. Letters will be sent out with appointment times. If you need to change your time please let the office know and we will do our best to accommodate your wishes. Please try to attend the meeting as it means a lot to your child to look at their books and celebrate their progress.

**Dinner Money**

Lunch is £2.30 a day. It is more efficient to pay dinner money for the week on the Monday, which is £11.50 if the child is having lunch every day. However, if you child just wants dinner on one day, then please send in £2.30 on the day. All money should be passed to the escort who then passes it to the member of staff meeting the buses. Please do not put large amounts of money in school bags.

**Lego Therapy**

We are spending some of our Pupil Premium funding on all our TAs, Mrs Gordon and Mrs Billington being trained up in Lego Therapy. This well-known therapy is a social development programme which helps children and young people with autism spectrum disorders and related social communication difficulties. It will be introduced to pupils and groups who we feel will benefit from the therapy. This is another exciting intervention we will be able to offer pupils at Orrets Meadow.

**Holidays**

Please may I remind you holidays in term time will not be authorised without an exceptional reason. Your child is at Orrets Meadow because they are working below their age related expectations, so they need to be in school every day. The Government has lowered the threshold so that any pupil with attendance below 90% is classed as persistent absence and must be referred to the Education Social Worker. Please try to make all appointments after school or in the holidays.

**Mobile phones/tablets**

Pupils are allowed to take mobile phones and tablets onto the buses to keep them occupied on the school journey. They are used at their own risk to loss and damage. All equipment is handed into school as they arrive and given back to them as the go home. Any camera devices need to be covered with a plaster for the safety and protection of the other pupils.

**Coffee Morning**

Please try to support the parent/carer coffee mornings. We ae putting them on to support you and your child, but unfortunately the last one only had 2 parents turn up! If future coffee mornings don’t have enough participants then we will have to cancel them. Michelle will send out details of the next coffee morning.

**Dates for the diary**

**HALF TERM Break - Monday 22 – 26th October**

**29th Oct School open to pupils**

**5th Nov Class 5 – Apple Store – Liverpool**

**6th Nov Class 6 – Apple Store – Liverpool**

**7th Nov Anti-Bullying conference – 3xY6 pupils will represent OM**

**16th Nov Anti-Bullying Day – Assembly**

**19th Nov Class 7 – Apple Store – Liverpool**

**21st Nov Coffee morning – Michelle**

**3rd Dec Art Day – Drawing skills – all classes**

**3rd Dec Class 1 – Alice in Wonderland Panto – Williamson Art Gallery**

**5th Dec Class 3 & 4 – Sing the Christmas Story – Christchurch B’head**

**7th Dec Non Uniform Day – Bring in Chocolate for tombola**

**10th Dec Christmas Assembly @ OM– Vicar – Parents not invited sorry**

**12th Dec Coffee Morning – Esafety – Mr Ferris and Michelle**

**14th Dec Science Investigation Day – all classes**

**14th Dec Non Uniform Day – Bring in Bottles – wine etc for tombola**

**19th Dec Coffee morning – coffee and mince pies – Michelle**

**20th Dec Christmas Merit Assembly – all parents welcome – 9.30am**

**20th Dec Christmas grotto after lunch**

**21st Dec School closed – Inset Day**

**Christmas Holidays**

**7th Jan School closed – Inset Day**

**8th Jan School open to pupils**

More activities and events will be added as the term progresses.

Please look at our school website at <http://orrets-meadow.eschools.co.uk> for other information on school.

Please follow us on Twitter by searching Orretsmeadow and start following us!

Thank you for all your support.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact me.

 Mrs Duncan