

Friday, 20th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank You

I would like to start my final newsletter of 2019 by saying a massive thank you to you all for your continued support during my first term as headteacher. It has been a busy but very rewarding term, which has included many highlights and 'magic moments'. I have loved getting to learn more about the school and how it operates through working with pupils, parents, staff and governors; I am very excited about what the future holds for Halebank. I know I am incredibly fortunate to be working alongside a talented and committed staff team who work tirelessly to give the children of Halebank the very best. I hope that as the Christmas period approaches, you are able to spend some quality time with your wonderful children and I wish you all the very best for 2020! Thanks again.



STARS OF THE WEEK



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| Class 1 | Jack: for being a Class 1 role model by sharing super manners, good listening and always being ready |
| Class 2 | Noah: for a wonderful report all about owls |
| Class 3 | Harry: for being very versatile in our nativity play |
| Class 4 | Codey: for excellent effort and being helpful |

Staffing Update

I am delighted to inform you that the school has appointed its new caretaker. Mr Paul Washington, who has caretaking experience in other local schools, will join the Halebank staff team on 13th January 2020. I would like to thank Mrs Boon for supporting the school as an interim caretaker for the last few weeks. As you already know, she is an absolute star! In other news, I am pleased to let you know that two of our more recently appointed teaching assistants will continue working with us next term: Mrs Nicola White and Mrs Michaela McGuiness, based in Classes 1 and 3 respectively, will continue their good work after the Christmas break.

Attendance

As a school, we are committed to promoting good attendance and we are striving to achieve our whole school target of **96%**. I am delighted to inform you that **16** children have **100% attendance** for the whole autumn term; what an achievement! In this morning's collective worship, we said a big 'well done' to them and **14** children who have achieved **100%** for the current half term. It is pleasing to note that another **27** children have achieved **96%** (or more) this term and we celebrated their efforts this morning, too.

In less positive news, our analysis of the school's attendance shows that some children have either been absent from school for extended periods of time (through, for example, term time holidays) while others have a number of 'broken weeks' in their attendance profiles. While I know that each case is individual and there are many factors that can affect school attendance, children who miss school regularly are much more likely to fall behind with their learning than those who are in school. So much learning builds on prior experience, so **every** session counts. If your child's attendance has fallen below 95%, you will be receiving a letter from the school informing you that we will be monitoring this, and you may be asked to attend a meeting in school for further discussion. Your cooperation in this matter is very much appreciated.

School Website

You may have noticed that all content from the school's DB Learning website has been removed as we have transferred to a new site hosted by School Spider. Our new website can be found at www.halebank.halton.sch.uk. We are in the process of updating some of the pages on the new site but please do take a look. You will find copies of our weekly newsletters, the school calendar and other key information. The staff are receiving training to help them develop the new site and we hope you will find it a useful resource to help keep you up to date with what is going on in school. I will keep you posted as the website develops.

After School Clubs

We are currently finalising plans for our spring term clubs. These will begin running during the week beginning **13th January 2020**. A letter will be sent out to you on the first day of the new term with further information.

Community Worship

Thank you for supporting Community Worship on Tuesdays this term. Roland is keen to develop the church's partnership with the school and this will include some changes after Christmas. Instead of a weekly Community Worship, the church will provide fortnightly 'Church on Tuesday' after school. There will also be a Community Worship but this will take place on a Thursday once a fortnight. These sessions are due to start in February and further details will be sent out to you early next term.



6th January 2020: INSET day: school closed

7th January 2020: School re-opens for the spring term

13th January 2020: After school clubs start this week

Start of the New School Term

After the Christmas break, the staff will be completing a training day on Monday, 6th January. School will re-open on **Tuesday, 7th January** and I look forward to seeing you all again..... next year!

Wishing you all an enjoyable Christmas; I hope the coming year brings peace, prosperity and good health to you and your families.

Yours sincerely

Richard Harley

Mr R Harley