

A message from Mrs. Lord

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and to thank all parents/carers for supporting a positive return to school for pupils following the Christmas period.

Last term was busy yet successful, with our major building renovation being complete. We now have two fantastic new nurture classrooms that Groups 4 and 5 moved into and an extended kitchen and science room to enhance our curriculum offer. All pupils coped extremely well with the changes to the building and seem to be enjoying the new spaces.

We are looking forward to a productive, enjoyable Spring term that hopefully isn't disrupted too much by the ongoing pandemic. All staff are looking forward to seeing pupils engaged in their learning and participating in the planned events.

Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's group staff if you have any queries.



Getting our cook on!

As part of the building developments, the kitchen and science rooms have also been extended to create larger, more useable spaces. Cooking lessons are back on the timetable and are a firm favourite with the pupils. We have had a range of

delicious sweet and savoury dishes prepared and pupils have even taken part in a Ready, Steady, Cook challenge using some of the Fair Share leftovers!



Gardening

Pupils have been reaping the rewards from the seeds and bulbs planted during the summer lockdown recently. A variety of vegetables were harvested and then used to make some delicious

foods. A favourite with staff and pupils was the delicious garlic bread made from the freshly harvested garlic.....Mmmmmm!



It's Christmas!!!

A big thank you to Miss Glover who has organised a range of Christmas activities for pupils. We never realised we had such competitive staff until the opportunity to be crowned winners of the best decorated classroom was launched. Staff and pupils have been very busy turning their classrooms into winter wonderlands! But who will be the winner... it's going to be a tough decision for SLT.

We have also celebrated Christmas Jumper Day and will enjoyed having a festive Christmas lunch on Thursday 17th December. Members of SLT were also excited to have been invited to Group 4 and 5s Christmas party on the final afternoon of term.



Children in Need

Current Covid restrictions have not stopped staff and pupils from thinking about others and raising some much needed funds for Children in Need. A non-uniform day allowed pupils and staff to wear their own clothes in return for a small donation. All groups took part in a virtual charity duck race.

Well done and thank you to all those who were involved and donated.



Outdoor developments

Following our successful bid to attract National Lottery money, we have had three landscape companies offer quotes for work to transform this section of land into a teaching and forest schools' area. At present, this land is not used by staff or pupils. Its position and slope have meant that it has not been usable.....until now. The National Lottery grant will enable us to develop the area and

levelling it off before decking and a canopy can be added. New fencing and paths will make the area secure and safe. This will give us an outside teaching option and enable us to undertake forest school activities. Exciting times!



Attendance

All staff have worked tirelessly this term to improve the attendance for all pupils, with Mr Hayton and Miss Wood leading on a range of incentives. Last half term, Group 5 were worthy winners of the attendance award and earned themselves a Pizza Hut lunch, which was enjoyed by all the group! Which group are going to be the lucky group this half term...

Mr Hayton also celebrates positive weekly attendance through his attendance reward wheel and pupils are keen to win the £5 weekly prize.

Staff training

We have had a range of training sessions this term, with everybody getting used to a new way of delivering and receiving virtual training. Thank you to all staff who have developed their IT skills and delivered training to support staff development. We have also had external agencies supporting our development, with one of our twilight sessions delivered by the Educational Psychology service on Emotional Coaching. This is supporting some further training that staff will be receiving linked to the Alex Timpson programme. Our INSET day on Monday 15th January will be focused on trauma, loss and attachment and how we can use emotional coaching as a method to support pupils significant SEMH needs.

Information for parents

At Reach, we firmly believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we focus on supporting all young people to help them achieve. We understand that this is a very difficult time for students and parents at the moment and we want to ensure that you feel supported.

There are a number of resources available to support parents and young people during this time on our school website <https://www.reachacademy.uk.com/safeguarding>

Alternatively, if there are any concerns that you would like to speak to a member of staff about then please do not hesitate to contact the school on 01924 478 482 to speak to myself or one of the safeguarding team.

Many thanks

Mr Hayton