8th November, 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope you are all well and perhaps starting to look forward, just a little, to Christmas (which seems to come around quicker as each year goes by)! This is our half-termly newsletter which contains a good deal of useful information and important dates that you will need to be aware of, so you might want to put it somewhere safe. Should you lose this communication, you will find an electronic copy of it on our website at www.fensprimaryschool.co.uk.

**Children in Need**

As it is “Children in Need” day on Friday 18th November we are having a non-uniform day in school. Children may wear casual clothes that are suitable for playtimes and the normal school day. The usual rules on footwear and jewellery will apply, and children should not wear colourful hairspray.

Children may, if they wish, bring a small donation, which will be given to the charity.

**Jewellery Policy & Hairstyles**

Just the usual reminder to parents/carers that the school has a no jewellery policy: children who attend school wearing earrings will have to remove them if they can or if not parents will be called to attend school to do it for them. Some hairstyles such as severe close cuts, coloured hair and logos or slashes styled into the hair can be a distraction in school. Many thanks for your continued support in sending your child to school with an acceptable hairstyle.

**Changes to Lunch Arrangements**

Should your child wish to change their lunchtime arrangements to dinners or to packed lunches, please remember to complete the amendment form available at the school office before the end of term.

**Personal Details**

Could we please ask you to advise us if you change your telephone numbers as we need to ensure our records are up to date in case we need to contact you in the case of an emergency.

**Discos**

The Christmas Disco will be held on Tuesday 29th November, 2016.

**Infant** (KS1 and Nursery) will be held from 4.15 – 5.30 pm.

**Junior** (KS2) will be held from 5.45-7.15 pm.

Would you please note that, as usual, parents will not be able to stay with the children at either of the discos. All staff will be present to supervise.

Could we please ask parents/carers to bring children to the main entrance and assist us by taking the children’s coats home with you, bringing them back when you return to collect the children.

Could we please also ask that children bring no more than £2 to spend on refreshments and that you place any Early Years/Key Stage 1 child’s money in a small purse or envelope. Many thanks. Tickets will be on sale, priced at £1, from Monday 21st November, 2016.

**Charitable Donations**

Many thanks for your generous donations of items for the Hartlepool Foodbank. Representatives were overwhelmed by the scale of your response; we will let you know how much was collected as soon as we find out. Last year you gave 327kgs worth of items, which equated to a fantastic 779 meals – a brilliant total of which you should be very proud.

Recently the school donated an excellent £800 to Air Ambulance from funds earmarked for charitable responses (most of it from Christmas ticket sales); again, this is money which has come originally from your pockets, so thanks once again for your generosity.

**Friends of Fens**

This year the Friends of Fens committee has decided that it would like to treat the children of the school, from

Reception to Year 6, to a visit to Billingham Forum to see their pantomime ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’. This will take place on Wednesday 4th January during the afternoon. The exact time of return to school is not known yet, as rehearsals have not yet started, so the Theatre is not sure of the length of the show at this point. It will certainly be well after the usual time the school ends, however, and we will let you know as soon as we know, precisely what time the buses will return to school afterwards. I think you will agree that this is a wonderful gesture by the committee; it is something for the children to look forward to after Christmas and there is no charge to parents/carers. In addition, they have not forgotten the nursery children, and are discussing what treat they may be able to provide for them.

The Friends of Fens are also holding their Annual General Meeting at the school on Thursday 10th November at 4.30pm. If anyone wishes to become a part of this team, or otherwise support them in any way, please feel welcome to attend the meeting.

**Christmas Performance Tickets**

Would you please note that Christmas Performance details are as follows:-

Nursery and Reception Tuesday 6th December 2016:

Morning Performance - 10.00 am.

Afternoon Performance - 2.00 pm.

Tickets for these performances will be sold at the cost of £1 each from Monday 28th November at the **Nursery**. Any tickets left on the morning of the performance will be sold on a first come first served basis.

KS1/Infants Wednesday 7th December 2016:

Morning Performance - 10.00 am.

Afternoon Performance - 2.00 pm.

Tickets for these performances will be sold at the cost of £1 each from Monday 28th November at the **main school office**. Any tickets left on the morning of the performance will be sold on a first come first served basis.

KS2/Juniors Thursday 8th December 2016:

Afternoon Performance - 1.45 pm.

Friday 9th December 2016:

Morning Performance - 9.45 am.

Afternoon Performance - 1.45 pm.

Tickets for these performances will be sold at the cost of £1 each from Monday 28th November at the **main school office**. Any tickets left on the morning of the performance will be sold on a first come first served basis.

**Please note that all proceeds from the sale of performance tickets will be donated to local charities**.

Tickets will be strictly limited to two per child until the day of the performance when any spare tickets will be sold.

***Admittance is by ticket only: please advise grandparents and other family members that they cannot pay at the door.***

**Please note that we cannot hold tickets for anyone and no telephone requests can be accepted.**

***Due to child safeguarding issues would you please also note that no photographs or video recording will be allowed during the performance.***

**If you require tickets for a particular day you must purchase them as soon as possible as there are only a certain amount of tickets available for each day because of Fire Regulations. We cannot guarantee we will have tickets available for the day you wish to attend.**

**Dates:**

Fri 18th November, 2016 Children in Need – Non-Uniform Day.

Tues 29th November, 2016 Discos KS1 4.15 – 5.30pm, KS2 5.45 – 7.15pm.

Tues 6th December, 2016 Nursery and Reception Performance 10.00am and 2.00pm.

Wed 7th December, 2016 KS1 Performance 10.00am and 2.00pm.

Thurs 8th December, 2016 KS2 Performance 1.45pm.

Fri 9th December, 2016 KS2 Performance 9.45 am and 1.45 pm.

Mon 12th December, 2016 Nursery and Year 3 Party.

Tues 13th December, 2016 Reception and Year 4 Party.

Wed 14th December, 2016 Year 2 and Year 6 Party.

Thurs 15th December, 2016 Year 1 and Year 5 Party.

Fri 16th December, 2016 Last day of term.

Tues 3rd January, 2017 School re-opens.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C P Cornforth

Headteacher