



## Silsden Primary School

24<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are at the end of a long half term. The children have settled into their new year groups and got stuck into their new learning. The new children to our school in EYFS have settled in to the school routines exceptionally well. This is down to the hard work of all the staff and parents involved and I would like to thank you for your efforts and ongoing support.

One of the highlights of this term has been seeing the children beginning to learn more regularly in our outdoor learning area and poly tunnel. This has been done under the guidance of several staff, particularly Mrs. Kenyon and Miss. Firth. The children have been doing lots over the last three weeks including making dens and building fires.

As part of this learning, we have been asking children to bring in wellies from home for obvious reasons. Moving forward, it is really important that children have a pair of wellies that are ready to be brought into school so that the children can access these outdoor areas. Staff will do parents to remind you that they are needed. EYFS children already have wellies which they keep in school. When wellies come in, please make sure they come in a plastic bag for obvious reasons.

This term we have seen a significant increase in the number of parents requesting ASC and ADHD assessments for their children and bringing forms into school for teachers to complete observations. We will not be completing these forms following parental request from this point onwards, unless we feel that there is a need to do so. If you have concerns around your child's development at school, or their behavior at home, please come into school to discuss these before any pathway for diagnosis, or applications for EHCPs are to be considered.

Similarly, we have had several occasions where parents have decided that children need to have sensory support materials in school to help their children. Again, these are things that we do have in place for some children. However, they are only considered following consultation with specialist staff who recommend these to us. We will not be sanctioning the use of these unless we have undertaken our normal assessment process for these interventions with your child.

Every year we remind parents to monitor the use of their children on social media apps at home. We have incidents this term of children sending inappropriate messages to each other of explicit images and foul threatening language on Snapchat and WhatsApp. Please seriously look at what your child is accessing and consider whether a smart phone is a necessary device for them to have. There has been a lot in the media over the last six months regarding this issue and giving children under 13 dumb phones, where children are unable to access messaging apps but can still send text messages, make phone calls and play snake! Our monthly Online Safety Newsletter provides lots of information, hints, tips and links on how to keep your child safe online – please do take time to read it.

You will have received your mid-term reports from your class teachers. Please read these and consider the statements on them. Please note that the attendance figures relate to the period from April until now. It is important that you look at these before you attend parents evening so that you already have an overview of the progress that your child is making, as this will make your parents evening appointments more purposeful regarding what needs to happen next.

After half term can parents please remember to be considerate to the rules around parking on the school site. It is important that these are followed by everyone so that it works. If a member of staff asks you to comply with our parking rules, then please listen to them respectfully and follow their instructions. Any threatening or abusive behaviors towards anyone on the school site will obviously not be tolerated.

Can parents of children who walk to school please remember that the school doors do not open until 8.45am. We



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have quite a few children arriving at school from 8.15am. This is too early and these children are beginning to cause some concern for us with regards to their safety, as they are not always doing the right thing. Ideally there should be no children on the school site prior to 8.35am. Please remember children remain the responsibility of their parents until 8.45am.

Thank you all again for your support of our school and the work that we are trying to do. We have a lot to look forwards to next half term, new things that your children will be doing that I am sure they will be excited about and that you will continue to support.

I hope, that you all have an enjoyable half term break with your children.

Yours faithfully,

Mr K S Russell  
Headteacher