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Headteacher Mrs S Taylor

24 October 2019

Dear Parents,

What a half term...

We have had a really busy and productive start to the school year with many fantastic learning activities and enrichment opportunities for our children.

### **Curriculum and Learning**

To see all the fantastic learning happening in school, please check the school website and your child's class page. The class pages are a really important way in which teachers communicate to parents. Teachers update their class pages each week and it is always fully updated with the previous week's news by a Sunday.

For an overview of your child's curriculum and timetable for each half term, please check the **Curriculum tab** within their class page on the website.

To see more detailed information about what the children have learnt during the week, please check the **Class news tab** which is updated and ready to view each Friday. Homework is also posted on the class pages underneath the **Homework tab** on a Friday.

There has been lots of exciting enrichment activities happening in school. Messy Church was very popular with the children making trumpets and learning about the story of Jericho. We have enjoyed our library lunches and our wonderful parent lunches made by Sharon. The children love being able to share these events with you. Tigers are enjoying Forest School each Wednesday and I know Panthers are looking forward to their turn soon. Mr Roberts has also been into school to start rehearsals with the Panthers ready for the Christmas concert at Holy Trinity School in December.

We have come together as a school to share in two very special church services. Our Harvest Festival which the children have been closely involved in planning and delivering and we are incredibly proud of their ability to reflect on their place in on our local community, championing and supporting local charities such as the Ripon Food Bank. Tigers also enjoyed a very special wedding ceremony which they invited Oak class from Kirkby Malzeard to share in. Our after school clubs continue with the children having the opportunity to take part in Code Club, Cycling and Multi Sports.

Our new Reception children have settled well and are enjoying being part of Tiger class.

### **Open Morning**

The open morning was very well attended, with parents being offered the opportunity to see our school at work. Our volunteers Ava, Eva, Edie and Daisy did an incredible job of giving guided tours of the school to parents, visiting each class, as well as offering parents the opportunity to see our Forest School at work. We were very proud of all the children and their behaviour, we received many compliments from our visitors on our children and their confidence and enthusiasm. A huge thank you to the staff, volunteers and the PTA who have worked incredibly hard to make the morning the success it was.

### **Federation**

The federation consultation process continues and forms for feedback are available in the school office.

### **Staffing**

At the start of term we welcomed Mrs Fernley to Panther class where she is working each afternoon, and last week we were also pleased to welcome Mrs Walker who will be working each morning in Panther class.

### **Changes to our website and communication**

We always use parent pay and the website as primary way of contacting parents. Should you have any other queries about what is happening in school, or require any further information or clarification, please contact class teachers via the school office or school email and we will be happy to help.

### **School Office Hours**

The school office is open from 8.30 – 12.30 on a daily basis, except Tuesdays. Should you need to contact the office outside of those hours, please email [admin@west-tanfield.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@west-tanfield.n-yorks.sch.uk). For urgent messages such as collection of children, a voice mail can be left. Voice mail messages will be checked at 3.20pm each day.

For parents whose children access our bus service, please ensure that you contact the school office no later than 9.30am should your end of the day arrangements have changed from the timetable submitted to the office.

### **Parent views**

This term I have met with parents at the welcome morning and open morning and we have sought parents' views through the parent questionnaires which came home at the start of October. Feedback from these will be sent to parents in November. I am always eager to hear parents' views about our school and should you not have completed one of the questionnaires, or have any concerns moving forward, I am always available to discuss these.

### **Thank you**

On a personal note, I would like to say a huge thank you for the warm welcome I have received. It has been a pleasure getting to know the children and wider school community and I look forward to working with you all to move our fantastic school forward. Have a restful half term. I look forward to seeing you all after the holidays.

Mrs Taylor

