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## NEWSLETTER February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the school after our very disappointing Ofsted report. We are working hard to address the issues raised.

As part of the process, we organised an independent audit of our early year's provision in December that was carried out by the local authority. The ECERS audit (Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale) is an in-depth look at the provision for the children in our nursery and reception class. The specialist staff from the local authority spent a day and a half in our early years, whereas Ofsted were in there for a maximum of 30 minutes and spoke with staff for about an hour. Both audits made judgements in all the key areas of learning but the findings in the ECERS report were very positive.

Here are some of the comments:

- Children are actively engaged in their learning
- Interactions between staff and children, and between children are a strength of the setting
- The staff are promoting stories and a love of reading
- Continuous provision is well-organised and the behaviour of the children is calm and relaxed

As you can see by these comments, the report paints a very different picture to the one in the Ofsted report. There are two sides to every coin. On behalf of the staff, I want to thank you for the positive comments from you that lifted our spirits when we needed it most.

### **Gymnastics**

Last week we took 5 children from year 4 to Warrington for the Halton gymnastics competition. The children had to learn both an individual routine and a group routine which they performed in front of judges. We didn't win the competition but all who took part received a lovely medal and had a fabulous day using the excellent facilities at Warrington Gymnastics Club.

### **Halton primary Arts Network Exhibition**

Our choir sang at the opening ceremony of the art exhibition in the shopping city. The Mayor of Halton was in attendance and spoke proudly about the standard of art work on display. If you get a chance, please go and have a look over half term. The exhibition will be there until the 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

## School Spider App

Thank you to all the parents that signed up for the new School Spider app and apologies for the recent problems you have been experiencing with it. We have been informed the app should be back up and running at full capacity in the next few days, currently only the communication module is in operation.

You may need to login back in again, you can reset your password from the app if you need to and your username (usually your first and last name e.g johnsmith) will have been on the original email sent when you first logged in.

## Snack

The cost for snack after half term will be £5.00, payable in advance either by cash or online via the School Spider app (when payments come back online).

## Dates for the Diary

**15/02/23** School nurse is on site from 9am for a chat about anything that might be concerning you e.g. eating habits, screen time, sleeping patterns etc.

**16/02/23** Halton Council's Mental Health Team are in school from 9am running a workshop about fussy eating. All are welcome.

**27/02/23** INSET day. School is closed to all pupils

**28/02/23** NEU strike day. School is closed to all pupils except reception class. Reception class will be open to pupils in the morning and dinnertime but children will need to be collected at 1pm. If your child is entitled to a free school meal, please let us know if you require one making for the strike day. The next proposed strike dates are 15/03/23 and 16/03/23.

**2/03/23** World Book Day - Come dressed as a book title or character ready to join in our fun book day activities.

**7/03/23** Karen Cook, who is a magistrate, will be in school to talk to year 5 and 6 about the justice system.

**29/03/23** Merseyside Youth Games. Hallwood Park will be representing Halton in the indoor athletics competition.

As you can see from the dates for the diary, most children will not be returning to school after half term until **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March**.

Have a lovely break.

Regards,  
Russell Fletcher  
Acting Headteacher