

Educational excellence for our City

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20th November 2024

Dear Parent / Guardian

I write with a small number of updates

## 1) Snowy days

I just wanted to let parents/carers know when and how we make decisions to open or not on days when there is snow. My decision is informed by my own journey to school at 6.30am, and by the weather forecast. If roads are clear and snow has stopped, we would expect to open as normal. If roads are already becoming busy and snowfall is anticipated to continue, we will start lessons slightly later than normal and seek to inform parents no later than 7.30am. If roads are very treacherous, public transport uncertain and perhaps with further heavy snow predicted we will consider closing. Again, we seek to inform parents of any decision by 7.30am or earlier. In addition to sending all parents an email, we also update our website. In the rare event of a closure we also notify the Local Authority and local radio stations, again by 7.30am.

### 2) A huge thank you

I would like to thank all the parents/carers who responded to the recent OFSTED 'parentview' questionnaire. We really appreciate parents taking the time and effort. Our pupils were amazing during the inspection – engaging brilliantly throughout. I feel incredibly proud and grateful for the contributions of our wonderful pupils.

### 3) INSET Day Reminder

A quick reminder that this Friday (22<sup>nd</sup> November) in an INSET Day, when pupils will not be in school. Our staff will be working with colleagues at secondary schools across the area to continue to develop our subject specialisms. As ever, apologies for any inconvenience this and other INSET days may cause.

#### 4) Perfect Week Awards

We are delighted to announce the continuation of our Perfect Week Awards. This award is designed to celebrate excellent attendance and behaviour. Each week, pupils with 100% attendance and zero behaviour points will be entered into a prize draw. Winners from each year group will receive a chocolate bar.

As an extra incentive, at the end of the term, we will hold a special draw for a £50 Amazon voucher for one lucky pupil in each year group.

Additionally, we are excited to introduce a new prize this year: one pupil will win a Christmas hamper for their parents or carers—a way to share the festive spirit and celebrate success as a family.





We hope these initiatives will continue to inspire our pupils to strive for excellence in their attendance and behaviour each week.

## 5) Extracurricular Clubs

It is wonderful to see the continued enthusiasm for our wide range of extracurricular clubs, with excellent attendance across the board. These clubs are a fantastic way for pupils to develop skills, build friendships, and enjoy new experiences.

We encourage you to remind your child to take full advantage of these opportunities. Please note, however, that there will be no Saturday clubs on the following dates over the Christmas holidays:

- 21st December
- 28th December
- 4th January, 2025

Regular sessions will resume on Saturday, 11th January.

# 6) Upcoming Assessments and Set Changes

Pupils are currently completing their first round of assessments for this academic year. These assessments are crucial as they provide valuable insights into your child's progress and will help us ensure that all pupils are placed in the appropriate ability groups.

Please encourage your child to fully prepare and revise for these assessments. Following this review, we may make set changes to ensure that every pupil is in the most supportive learning environment to maximise their potential.

Yours sincerely

Mr Neil Jones Headteacher