



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a great week. Staff have been completing INSET training and development together today. Our focus has been **SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities): inclusive and adaptive teaching** and the **Power of Story across the curriculum**. We love great books at school and we want to further dig into the rich and memorable learning experiences great stories provide.

We look forward to having the children back on Monday.

**PTFA AGM:** As you will have seen, the Annual General Meeting for the PTFA will be held on **Wednesday 12th February at 3:30pm**. We are able to look after your children who attend our school (not pre-school or secondary school children) during the meeting to help enable you to attend. It would be great to see lots of you there as committee members are voted for and appointed and for as many parents as possible to get involved in lots of ways big or small. Get the date in your diary.

**Holocaust Memorial Day Service:** On Wednesday pupils in Year 4, 5 and 6 maturely and confidently led our annual Holocaust Memorial Day Service at the Abbey. We were joined by the Mayors of Test Valley and Romsey respectfully, who were both incredibly impressed with the children's leadership of the poignant service.

**Smart Phones:** As a school and in close collaboration with the other schools in the Romsey area, we are seeking to promote clear and healthy messages about smart phones within childhood. Rather than overwhelm you with all the ideas and information in one go, I will be adding different things each week to provoke thought and encourage healthy habits and attitudes. We believe this is a vitally important area of education and wellbeing and we wish to be proactive in giving key messages.

To begin with, we will be insisting that **children who do bring phones into school, hand them into the office as soon as they arrive in school and before they go through the green gate**. Phones should then only be collected at the end of the day from the office once the child has been dismissed by their teacher. Children will not be permitted to have phones on the school grounds. We discourage children from bringing in phones at all but we know some parents value the reassurance of their children having a phone if they are walking to and/or from school independently in Year 5 and Year 6.

**Smart Watches:** Linked to the above, smart watches are not permitted in school. Watches that have the capacity to record sound/video or take/store photographs, receive messages and link to a smart phone and/or play games should not be brought into school for very similar reasons to the phones. If we are unsure of the functions of a child's watch, teachers will ask the child to show them what it can do so we can be confident that the watch is appropriate for school. We are keen to be as consistent and fair as we can and would appreciate your support in this area.



We are walking in the Footsteps of Jesus with Love Trust and Forgiveness

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**Dates for your Diary:** Here is the link for our Dates for your Diary. It is a live document so will update as new dates and events are added to the diary: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/10-Qaqv3rcTOhllGpgLuw5Jpz\\_roi8-UQP-67qL45jBc/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10-Qaqv3rcTOhllGpgLuw5Jpz_roi8-UQP-67qL45jBc/edit) Dates for Spring Parents Evening have now been added. Class Performances for Spring and Summer will be added next week.

**Prayer:** I'll finish with a prayer, which you are most welcome to join me in praying. It is one of the prayers prayed by the children at the Holocaust Memorial Service this week:

*Dear God,*

We pray for our leaders across the world, give them wisdom, empathy and understanding. We pray for peace across the world, across communities and between all people and races. We pray that we would play our part in inspiring good not harm, spreading love not hate. We pray for a better future and that the tragedies of the past would not be repeated.

*Amen*

Have a wonderful weekend and thank you again for all your support.

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*"Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus with Love, Trust and Forgiveness"*