



GROWING, LEARNING, ACHIEVING TOGETHER

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Dear Parents and Carers,

21st January 2020

I would like to wish you a very happy new year and I hope you had an enjoyable and restful holiday. It has been a real pleasure to welcome the children back to Cold Harbour where they have started learning about their new exciting topics. Information about what the children have been learning has been shared with you in the curriculum newsletter that you received at the beginning of January and these are also on the website. It was great to see so many of you at the reading session for parents last night after school and I would also like to thank the staff for their time in sharing these important strategies. Moving forward we would like to see all children in school reading at least 4 times a week at home. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you wish to discuss progress in reading.

SIP Visit

On the 9th and 10th of January we had a visit from Toby Long (Diocesan Advisor) and our School Improvement Partner Louise Eaton. They were reviewing the progress made since September and spent 2 days in school looking at books, lessons, talking to pupils and hearing readers. I am delighted to be able to inform you that they were really pleased with the improvements they saw. They made particular reference to the notable improvements in the teaching of writing and phonics and they were also very impressed with the improvements in pupil behaviour. Pupils spoke to them about how much they valued new initiatives like the writing targets and how behaviour was managed fairly and consistently by all staff. Overall the final report was very positive with improvements being seen in all areas of the school. I am sure that you will want to join me in thanking all of the dedicated staff here at Cold Harbour for the way in which they have engaged with the changes since September and I am delighted that the hard work has been recognised by independent advisers. While this is really good news, we are not being complacent and will continue to drive forward further improvements over the coming weeks and months.

Book Week

Our 'Book Week' will take place during the week commencing 27th January. We will be looking at a range of interesting texts and we know the children are really excited about the events happening across the school:

- On **Thursday 30th January** we will be having a bedtime story event in each year group. This will be held from 4:20pm until 5:00pm in all year groups. Children need to return to school at

4:20pm (they can wear their pyjamas / dressing gowns etc.) where the class adults will read them a story. Adults and siblings are also welcome. Hot chocolate and marshmallows will be provided.

- We will be having a 'dress-up' as a book character day on **Friday 31st January** to end this really exciting week. The children can come as any character from a book that they have read and I hope that everyone will take part. We will be awarding prizes and certificates for the best costumes in each year group.

We would also like to inform you that Mrs Lorna Ryan, Deputy Headteacher, has recently resigned from Cold Harbour School.

Many thanks for your continued support. As always, please contact the school office to make an appointment with a senior leader if we can assist you in any way.

Rob Morley-Smith.

Head of School.