



17 December 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you're all ready for the Christmas break. We have been tip toeing our way through this week trying to stay safe and make sure we can all enjoy Christmas with our families. Fingers and toes crossed that we've all made it!! I must say that around school and on the buses the vast majority of students have had the selflessness and intelligence to realise that wearing their face coverings does help to reduce transmissions of Covid and this has made the final week of term more straightforward and less stressful.

MECE Charity

It has been great to see some of the charitable work undertaken by the school and parents and students recently. Our recent toy drive for Reading Family Aid was incredibly successful. In addition, the staff have given generously to an initiative called the Giving Tree which supports families who have suffered instances of domestic abuse. Furthermore, our drive for food to support the food banks at Readifood and the Weller Centre have also been incredibly successful. Lastly, I would like to pay tribute to our Family Support Worker, Jade Hibberd, who registered our school with a charity called the Cow Shed and we successfully won our bid for all Free School Meals students to receive a toy hamper worth around £50 per student.



Raffle!

I also want to thank you as parents for your generous contributions toward the PE raffle for new gym equipment. This event led by Mrs Norman, a Year 8 parent, raised almost £600 and we are incredibly grateful for this money. The prizes were amazing- air pods, vouchers and more- and I am particularly looking forward to using the Impulse gift set that I won!

Christmas and the idea of giving is so important for our young people to understand and in our final assembly I shared with the students the story of St Nicholas and how he came to see that giving to others was one of the greatest things that humans can do whilst on earth. I hope our work in promoting these charities and ensuring our students see their place in society as contributors rather than receivers sticks with them after they leave our school.

Goodbyes

Today we say goodbye to Jane Taylor, our kitchen manager who after 19 years 10 months has decided to retire. We wish Jane good luck looking after her grandchildren in the new year. In turn we welcome Michelle Boden as our new kitchen manager. Michelle is a true supporter of MECE as a parent, an employee and a supporter of CESA and we can't wait to see what she achieves.

The students remain looking very smart and very little learning time is lost at the start of lessons because the students support the Tools for Learning strategy so well. Can I use this newsletter as a plea to ensure that the Christmas break is used to get ready for the new term?

This includes:

- Tools for Learning. The list of equipment required can be found [here](#). Please also be reminded that a reading book is now a part of Tools for Learning for all Key Stage 3 students.
- Shoes and uniform. Please ensure that the students are fully clothed and shod and ready for the new term. A link to our uniform list can be found [here](#)
- Can I also remind you that we ask that hair is not permitted to be shorter than Grade 1 and students may only have one ear piercing in the lower lobe of plain stud or small plain hoop.

Thank you for all the biscuits, flowers, wine and other gifts that have been brought into school this week. The staff always appreciate these things after a long term.

Have a fabulous holiday and most importantly, stay safe and stay well.



Andy Hartley
Headteacher

