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To all Parents/Carers,

25/1/19

This week has absolutely flown by with plenty to report. I can't believe there are only three weeks left of this half term (granted I have been at home for two of them!).

The first thing I wanted to mention, which we have been giving some thought to at school, is recycling. Following a really informative meeting with a parent yesterday, I was made aware of how easy it is to become a collection point for recyclable items in the city; and not just your typical, paper, glass etc. Things such as pens (including ink) and contact lenses, among others, can be recycled if done correctly. As such, we are going to be exploring this over the next few weeks and seeing how we can do more for the environment. This same parent also mentioned that her and her family are trying to go 'plastic free', which sounds like an incredibly difficult task – given our over-reliance on this material. Everyday jobs, like brushing your teeth or cooking some pasta suddenly become very difficult in the absence of plastics. Anyway, I'll keep you posted on this and how we are looking to create our very own Eco-Council too.

Speaking of councils, we will also be looking to create a Mental Wellbeing Council in the coming months. Our end goal, over the next twelve months, is to have a Mental Health Lead in school who can support the children and train our staff. Alongside this, we would like a group of children to support their peers and also fly the flag for mental health and help to break down any barriers of this potential taboo. Children's mental health is something we feel very strongly about so we are working hard to find effective and sustainable ways of supporting your child. Again, I'll keep you posted.

To help launch this search for our very first Mental Health Council we will again be highlighting Children's Mental Health Week which runs from 4th February to 8th February (please click on the link below). This year's focus is 'Healthy: Inside and Out' and we will kick off the week with a whole school assembly about how best to achieve this. The children will then partake in activities throughout the week culminating in a closing assembly on the Friday where each class will be asked to showcase what they have learnt.

https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMI4YfNhemG4AIVwo2yCh1ZZQdKEAAYASAAEgLvG_D_BwE

On a different note, Derby City Headteachers were asked to attend a briefing on Wednesday morning all about proposed changes to the Local Authority's funding of Special Educational Needs. There was a lot to digest at the meeting and once I have met with our Governing Board and Senior Leadership Team we will be inviting parents/carers in to school to discuss the potential impact.

And finally, can I please remind all parents/carers how important your voluntary contributions are towards school trips. Without this valuable source of income many of our trips would not be able to go ahead so a huge thank you for your continued support. Unfortunately, there seems to be an increasing shortfall with our trips this year and the last thing we want to do, as a result of this, is cancel them. The School Office is more than happy to discuss ways in which they can assist you with payments so please get in touch if this is something we can help you with.

Have a great weekend,

Mr I. Johnson