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26th November 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Junior House Captains and Prefects

Congratulations and well done to our newly elected House Captains and Prefects. The voting procedures modelled simple, democratic processes to other pupils, just as it was all going awry in the USA! This young leadership team are embracing their responsibilities and House Captains will be essential and non-biased judges at 'Court Lane has talent' next week at the Junior School.

Generous Harvest donations

We were so pleased to fill the minibus with the Harvest gifts you offered Portsmouth Foodbank with 569.6kg of food being donated. This will go a long way to help families that are struggling in very difficult circumstances. Thank you.



Keeping safe and bright



Please take every opportunity to remind your children of the seriousness of road safety. The dreary darker mornings and gloomy light for most of the afternoons means that visibility is reduced. It also leads to more drivers trying to park nearer their destination including illegally on lines put there to keep pedestrians safe with clear crossing spaces. Respecting our local residents is essential, so please do not park across drives, on property or block any access points and alleyways.

I am rather shocked to have to advise on another very unpleasant, unsocial matter too. Three weeks ago a resident in the locality informed us of an Infant child defecating in an alleyway whilst the Junior sibling waited on private property. A parent was with their offspring. I want to believe that this was an emergency but alarmed that there was no apology or attempt to clear up. We were notified this week that this has since been repeated. Staff have reminded all the pupils that they are able to go to the toilet before they leave school. We realise some families perhaps have staggered drop off/pick up times and are waiting longer with brothers and sisters, but both schools are happy for pupils to come back into school if they need to go to the toilet.

Safeguarding and digital wellbeing

The anti-bullying theme last week got off very positively with so many children (and staff) enjoying wearing odd socks. This really helped our pupils to recognise that difference is absolutely ok and to understand the value of respect for all.

A round up of the Junior focused work around anti-bullying included whole class discussions and activities to recognise this year's theme of 'United Against Bullying'. Each child created their own puzzle piece to

represent how they are going to unite against bullying. All classes have proudly displayed these puzzle pieces in their classrooms to remind children of the importance of working together to overcome issues of bullying faced in schools today.



Bullying, but especially cyber bullying are serious concerns for parents today.

We wish to draw your attention to an app which has a free 60 day trial at the moment 'SafeToNet' - [wwwSafeToNet.com](http://www.SafeToNet.com). Cyber bullying occurs in a large part due to the popularity of social media platforms and other forms of digital communication so online gaming harassment and abuse are an increasing reality for many children. Please see the attached poster.

If you are concerned about a particular game, social media platform or aspect of online presence that your child is engaged with, please email your child's class email with the name of the game/platform or your concern. We have access to a library of parent guides for specific games, platforms, apps and online safety issues that we may be able to send you to help you keep your child safe when gaming or on social media.

Illnesses in School

Whilst we appreciate the symptoms of Covid are at the forefront of everyone's minds at the moment, we would like to remind you to be aware that there are still other illnesses and concerns to be mindful of. A list of common illnesses in school, along with advice as to whether children are ok to be in school, can be found on our schools websites under the 'Attendance' tab within the 'Parents' section. May we also take this opportunity to remind parents to please check your child's hair on a regular basis to keep headlice under control. If lice or eggs are found, treat urgently. Further information on how to treat head lice can be found on the school websites under the 'Parents – School Nursing Service – Head lice advice' section.

Welcoming back Mrs Wilson-Woodham

We look forward to welcoming back to Court Lane Infants Mrs Wilson-Woodham from maternity leave on 7th December who will be the full time Owls class teacher and will also resume her role as Year 2 leader. Mrs King's last day in school will be Tuesday 15th December, we thank her and we will be sad to see her leave as she has fully embraced her role and has shown a real commitment to school during this time.

Emotional wellbeing and Carefirst website resources

As we hear that Portsmouth will be in Tier 2 from 2nd December we all need to familiarise ourselves with what that means. Please see the attached poster.

Staff are being continuously upskilled with awareness of risk and protective factors, how to build resilience and with ideas to promote good mental health strategies so children make the most of their potential, to cope with an adjusted life right now and play a full part in their family, community and amongst friends.

Please remember the Care First website is available to support you and your family and contains some useful information to help us all through this time. <https://www.carefirst-lifestyle.co.uk>

Username: unicatp

Password: wellbeing

There are also a wealth of resources to help support wellbeing on our school websites, go to the 'Wellbeing' tab under 'Community'.

As it's our fourth INSET day tomorrow, Friday 27th November, we wish you a restful long weekend.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J Ramshaw'.

Mrs J Ramshaw
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K Geddes'.

Mrs K Geddes
Head of School