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## Care Imagine Believe Strive Achieve

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21<sup>st</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

### We made it!

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of the Autumn term having completed one third of the school year! Each day has been filled with a constant 'buzz' of learning, children engrossed in new experiences and always keen to share their work. The children at Melbourne are rightly proud of what they achieve and work co-operatively to produce the best they can. The last stretch in December is a demanding one full of activity and so it always comes as a huge relief when we finally make it over the line! This week has, again, been busy with performances, parties, Christmas dinners and lots of fun in class. We are confident that we will be handing over some tired children to you tonight. On behalf of the staff and Governing body at Melbourne, we would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and every happiness for the New Year. Thank you for your continued support, it is much appreciated.

### The 'Bossy King'

We were delighted to welcome so many of our families to the Early Years and KS1 performances this week. For many of our youngest children this would have been their first time on the big stage with a real audience. Didn't they do well! The children were so confident acting and narrating the Christmas story. Thank you to all of the staff who ensured the performances were of such a high standard and thank you to our families for coming along to support their little ones – we are extremely proud of them all, as no doubt you are too.

### Thanks

As we draw this Autumn Term to a close, we would like to say a special thank you to the Friends of School Committee and helpers. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated group of parents and friends to help promote and organise fund raising activity for the school – giving up so much of their own time to raise much needed funds for projects and extras. If you would like to join the FoS or have any ideas for fundraisers, please let the office know and we can pass your details onto the Committee. Thank you!

### More thanks

Festive thanks to Mrs Fairy for her continued fiddling with the fish! The fish tank in reception is such a huge hit with everyone who visits and is noticed by everyone who comes to Melbourne. Having a fish tank in schools is something of a rarity nowadays, as it involves someone being committed to its upkeep, so we, and all children and visitors, are most grateful for her continued attention.



### Staff changes

We are very pleased to introduce Mr Gavyn Cooper to Melbourne from 7<sup>th</sup> January. Mr Cooper will join the Key Stage 2 team. This allows us to split the children in to smaller groups for English and Maths on a morning until Miss Taylor's maternity leave commences. Mr Cooper will then lead Class 5. We are confident we have made a successful appointment and are very pleased to have him on board. We look forward to seeing what he brings to our fantastic team.

Just a reminder that Miss Welch is now our After School Coordinator – she can be reached on the Wrap Around Care mobile (07821623307), via the office (01759 318369) or [lwelch@mcps.org.uk](mailto:lwelch@mcps.org.uk).

### M&M Club

As we look ahead to our production in the Summer, we would be pleased to hear from anyone who may be prepared to film Joseph & The Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat for us. Our usual camera man is no longer able to come along and we would love to have a permanent reminder of the show. If you think you could help that please let Mrs Charlton know - no experience necessary -we are not looking for Oscar winning standard!

### Portakabin

Due to exponential growth in pupil numbers over the last three years we often struggle for space when we want to break into smaller groups during the day. We have, therefore, taken the decision to hire a Portakabin – a modular building, for a year. The obvious place would have been on the school field. However, this would have been difficult to access due to the existing cabins (Class 2 and 3) and the play equipment leading to the field. It would also have been too cost prohibitive due to the foundations that would have had to have been laid to ensure the building didn't sink! Therefore, the cabin (roughly half a class size) will be situated in the far corner of the playground. Thankfully, this work is being undertaken during the Christmas holidays to minimise any disruption. Please note that this may mean that Class 1, 2 and 3 children have to line further up the playground. Many thanks.



### Clubs

As lunchtime clubs do not affect pick-ups at the end of the day, no official confirmation has been sent home. The children have been informed about what clubs they have been successful in applying for so they should be able to tell you. Please be aware that if your child has not been allocated a place they will be put on a waiting list and will be able to attend should someone drop out.

- Key Stage 2 Dance Club and Tennis are both full.
- Netball commences on 15<sup>th</sup> January.
- M&M Club commences 9<sup>th</sup> January.
- Football – due to lack of interest, we have decided to postpone lunchtime football clubs. We will gauge interest toward the end of the Spring half term with a view to hopefully reinstating when the weather (and field) improves!

### Pick ups

Please can parents be aware that if children are not picked up on time from after school clubs or at the end of school they will be put into the extended schools' facility and you will be charged for the full session. We hope you understand that we do not have the capacity to supervise children at the end of the day; therefore, they will go to After School Club where supervision and activities are provided until 5.30pm.

Also parents should be aware that picking up late from nursery or after 5.30pm will result in a penalty fine being issued. Any staff that has to stay over their hours has to be paid so we must ask that parents pay in these instances. Many thanks for your understanding with this.

### Attendance

We had a brief attendance assembly and sing along this morning to congratulate all the children who have successfully attended school every day this term – all 68 of them! We had plans to provide hot chocolate around the fire pit but due to soggy conditions we were unable to do this. Instead, we celebrated with certificates, sweets and a raffle for a very nice pair of Christmas tree Spectacles & other goodies. We would like to thank all children and parents for their positivity regarding attendance. We know it is not easy when children are unwell but we often find that recoveries are remarkably swift once children are in the school environment and playing alongside their friends. Every session really does count – an overall attendance figure of 98% is very impressive for this time in the year as it is the term when we can be affected by winter coughs, colds and bugs. Many thanks again for your continued support with attendance and punctuality – it is very much appreciated.

### 50:50 Draw

The winners for December's 50:50 draw are:

1st - 16 Linda Underwood (£15)

2nd - 12 Len Underwood (£10)

3rd - 50 Harriet Morgan (£8)

Congratulations and Merry Christmas from the FOS team!

### Meals

We have had a huge amount of children asking for Xmas party and Xmas dinner meals this week who usually never have a school dinner and bring their own packed lunch. The closing date for requests for these meals was many weeks ago and only enough food and supplies were bought in to cover the meals already pre ordered. Thanks to our fabulous kitchen team we were able to provide meals, but it made for a very stressful and difficult service. In future if you wish your child to have a special meal, please can you let the office know within the time specified. Therefore for future reference late requests will not be able to be honoured.



### School Dinners

All our dishes are homemade. Fresh fruit and yoghurt are available every day. Vegetarians and all children with special dietary requirements will be catered for. If your child is having the sandwich options during the week please let us know at the office and we will be able to supply you with the information you require. School dinners are priced at £2.40.

#### School dinner menu - week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> January

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| Mon   | Chicken Paste Bake served with Potato Wedges, Sweetcorn & Winter Salad<br>Vegetarian Vegetable Pasta Bake<br>Chocolate Cookie & Milkshake     |
| Tues  | Braised Steak served with Yorkshire Pudding, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots & Cauliflower<br>Vegetarian Country Vegetable Casserole<br>Fruit Muffin |
| Weds  | Roast Pork Loin with Sage & Onion Stuffing, Roast Potatoes, Broccoli & Carrots<br>Vegetarian Quorn Roast<br>Strawberry Mousse                 |
| Thurs | Chicken Curry served with Naan Bread, Steamed Rice, and Mixed vegetables<br>Vegetarian Keema Curry<br>Madeline Sponge                         |
| Fri   | Fillet of Fish served with Steak Fries, Garden Peas, and Baked Beans<br>Vegetarian Vegetable Nuggets<br>Winter Berry Crumble                  |

