



ROBERT MELLORS PRIMARY ACADEMY

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We are nearly at the end of the term and a very unusual year. It is very strange to look back over the events of the past 10 months and think about how life has been very different. With the arrival of 2021, we will hopefully be able to begin to think about how school will be when things are 'back to normal'.

Great news!

Attendance

We have been really pleased that our whole-school attendance figures are really positive. We calculate our attendance according to the number of children who are able to attend on any one day. Our attendance rate has been well above the national average over the past few weeks. Thank you so much for ensuring that your children are attending school as much as possible.

Phonics assessment

You may or may not be aware that children in year 1 take part in a national phonics assessment each June. Due to the lockdown, this was postponed. The children who would have taken part in this assessment have been tested over the past two weeks and we are astounded at how well they have done. The outcomes show that our children have achieved above the national average, with all children making huge amounts of progress, despite the time the children had out of school. This is down to the hard work and effort of the children and the teaching staff in key stage 1. I would like to use this opportunity to thank the teaching team for ensuring that the children have been able to 'catch-up' on lost learning time. We know that this phonics learning has a huge impact on how well the children read – which increases confidence and achievement.

Christmas appeal

We are so grateful for your generosity in the donations that you have made towards our Christmas gift appeal. We have been able to pass on a large number of care gifts to our friends at Coppice Lodge as well as decorations that the children have made in school for their 'winter wonderland'. I am sure that these gifts will help to make this Christmas a more joyful time for the residents.

Other news...

As you know, Mrs Heathcote is expecting her first baby in the spring. Mrs Heathcote will be leaving school at the end of term for a period of time before the arrival of her baby. We are pleased to let you know that we have recruited a new F2 teacher to take over when Mrs Heathcote leaves. Miss Pankhania already knows our school as she has been doing some supply cover here. For a few weeks after the Christmas holiday, Mrs Heathcote will be working remotely alongside Miss Pankhania and Mr Steele and the other F2 staff.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Whitby (formerly Miss O'Reilly) at the end of this week. She has been successful in securing a post at another Nottinghamshire school. Mrs Whitby has been a valued member of staff for a number of years and she will be greatly missed. We would like to wish her all the best for the future.

Kind regards

Mrs Essex

