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Friday 9th January 2026

Week 16,

Happy New Year! And welcome back to all of our children for a new term in 2026! It's the start of the Spring Term and the wintry weather is definitely kicking in. We hope that you all had a lovely couple of weeks, feel relaxed and refreshed and ready for the new challenges ahead.

Can I start by saying how overwhelmed all of the staff here at Chase Side were by the generosity of our parents in giving cards and gifts to us in the lead up to Christmas. It is extremely kind of you all and very much appreciated by all of us... so thank you.

Before we finished at the end of last year, we moved to a new communication system (Scholar Pack to Arbor) as the software was going to be retired in February, this has raised a few teething problems. Firstly, we will no longer be able to send links to forms (trips /clubs etc.) by text message they will need to be sent by email (Y4 parents please check your emails for information and links about a trip booked for later this month), the number of characters available for us to use in a text has also been reduced so if the message seems blunt or rude, please understand that we have a limited number of letters we can use.

Secondly, the new system shows us whether an email has been delivered (useful as some of you have said that you do not receive the emails we have sent), the system highlights which emails have failed so we will be contacting you to make sure that we have the correct email address.

Thirdly, the system can recognize whether the address / telephone number you have given us is inaccurate (it is amazing what technology can do now!), if this is the case, we will be contacting you to make sure that the information we have for you is accurate.

I'm sure that once we get used to using the more complex sections of the system there will be other things that it can do to support clearer communication with you and I will update you as we go.

This week we held the Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) workshops for parents from Year 2 up to Year 6. The sessions will be delivered to the children in the week of 19th – 23rd January by their respective class teachers at some point in this week, they will confirm the dates in their weekly email nearer the time. All of the information is on the website (under Parent Workshop Presentations) and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Next week sees the return of our Ocean Maths sessions! Just a reminder, these sessions are an opportunity for parents to come into school and see a maths lesson in their child's class. We have started the cycle again so that means that next week we have Year 6 Ocean Maths. Sharman have their session on Tuesday 13th January at 9.10am and Attenborough have theirs on Thursday 15th January at 9.10am. It would be great to see as many Year 6 parents as possible as this will be their final Ocean Maths session!

Enjoy your weekend!

Stronger Together,

Melanie Scull