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Head Teacher: Miss Melanie Scull

Friday 21st March 2025

Week 25,

We've had a lot going on this week for many of our children in the school and as we approach the end of the Spring Term (where has that time gone?), we have got an extremely busy two weeks ahead; lots of dates for your diaries!

We had 'The Great Debate' debating competition this week where 12 children from Years 5 & 6 went to Chase Community School to participate against other schools from the local area. We were involved in two of the debates and the children used all of the research and work they had carried out to debate their hearts out. They all performed admirably and although they didn't quite make it through to the final, they represented Chase Side with pride.

We also had a group of Year 5 & 6 children compete in what were the final Netball League fixtures of the year. 7 children went to Enfield County School on Tuesday to play our three remaining matches. They played with plenty of heart and created lots of opportunities; well done to all of the children who have represented the school over the past month.

Today saw all of the children coming into school wearing something red in the name of Comic Relief. We had red t-shirts, red socks, red bows, red everything! (something which is very hard to see as a Tottenham fan!) Thank you all for the effort you put in and well done to those children who won their 'Bad Joke Competition!'. I'm sure your children will tell you the worst jokes that they heard. In total we raised over £260! Thank you all for your generosity.

This afternoon after school you also should have received a paper copy of your child's Annual Report; take your time to have a thorough read of this as you will have the opportunity to discuss elements of the report at the **Parent Consultations** which are on the **26th and 27th March** – you should already have a slot arranged to meet your child's teacher. Also, please complete the online form to confirm receipt of the report and make any comments.

Next week and the week after we are taking part in the 'Big Walk and Wheel 2025!'. This is a period where we encourage our children to come to school either walking, cycling, scooting or wheeling in any way they can. It helps the environment by cutting down the number of children coming to school by car and also promotes a healthy living lifestyle!

Some important dates for your diaries:

- Last week for clubs: This will be next week; the **last clubs** run by the school will be on **Friday 28th March**.
- **Reception Assembly**: This will be on **Friday 28th March at 9.15am**, please come along to support your children.
- **Daffodil Breakfast**: This is for **Years 1 & 2** and will take place on **Thursday 3rd April**.
- **FOCS Spring Disco**: **Tuesday 1st April for Years 1, 2 and 3** – further information to follow.
- **FOCS Spring Disco**: **Wednesday 2nd April for Years 4, 5 and 6** – further information to follow.
- **Next Friday, 28th March** – Our regular Coffee Morning will be attended by the **Enfield Advisory service for Autism (EASA)**. Please come along if you feel you need some advice or information.

Update on our recent D&V outbreak: the numbers of children and now staff have significantly decreased to low single figures with all children from the original cases now being fit and well and back at school. As I explained before, the only way to get a definitive answer to whether the cause is Norovirus or food related was to have stool samples tested.

However, the hygiene and cleanliness standards in the kitchen have been checked by Taylor Shaw and an external hygiene agency. All of the previously 'Gold Award' standard objectives have been maintained; while we continue to have D&V cases the cleaning routine in the kitchen is at Covid cleaning standards. Thank you to Lauren and her team for their continued hard work.

The few staff that we now have with D&V do not eat in the dining hall, suggesting that the cause was more likely to be a Norovirus. As a school we have increased the frequency of handwashing and reinstated our midday cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (door handles, taps and handrails etc). We have also had to remove all food related learning and stop the use of some sensory play (sand, water and playdough etc.). We are going to keep these precautions in place until we break for the Easter Holiday.

I know how difficult it has been for all the families that this has affected and hope that by taking action so quickly that we have reduced the number of children and therefore extended family members that this could have affected.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Stronger Together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "O. Hitchens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mr Hitchens