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1st February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

In November we held a sponsored football event to raise much-needed funds for school. The event, as you know, was successful and was great fun for the children. With the money raised, we are buying new sports equipment and playground equipment so that **ALL** of our children see the benefit of the money raised. Each class will have access to new resources. It has taken ages to select things that will be fun and engaging for all of our children and now we are just awaiting the order arriving. Once it arrives, we will take some photographs so you can see just what you have bought with your generous donations. Thank you again.

Talking to Staff

At Village, we pride ourselves on being at the heart of the community and being friendly, approachable and nice. If you do have a question or issue please feel free to talk to a member of staff including those of us outside. The best person to speak to about your child though is always the teacher and teaching assistant that works with your child each day because they know them so well. After that, if a problem is not resolved, then parents can speak to team leaders.

Our leaders are named below:

Early Years Leader = Mrs Ball

Key Stage One Leader/Assistant Head = Mr Mansell

Key Stage Two Leader/Deputy Head = Mr Davies

Phonics

As many of you will know, phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It helps children hear, identify and use different sounds that distinguish one word from another in the English language. Teaching children to blend the sounds of letters together helps them decode unfamiliar or unknown words by sounding them out. As soon as children start Nursery, the children learn sounds using our phonics scheme, 'Floppy's Phonics'. At the end of Year 1 children have a phonics test with their teacher to see how many sounds they have understood. This phonics test is scored out of 40 marks. However, for the past two years, with Covid, the children across the country have completed the test in Y2. This year, **80%** of our children passed the phonics test which



'Staff and Governors are committed to keeping children safe'.

means they scored 32/40 or higher. This result was higher than the national average and this has been the case for the last two years.

Support

The Prince Regent Trust recently secured the services of Stockton's former lead Educational Psychologist. Mrs Wise now works for our trust and will be a regular in Village Primary. This last week, she has been in school for two mornings working with staff and pupils. Her insight, skills and expertise will be invaluable in further strengthening our support for the children with additional needs and even for those who are not registered as SEND.

Children with special educational needs are allocated funding from the local authority to support additional needs that they may have. School always spends this money wisely. In school, each class has a teacher and a teaching assistant (some have more) so that children can be helped, supported and guided with their learning. Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCO) is Miss Begley who is also the Y1 teacher. She took over the role from Mrs Richardson who left at Christmas to move to Jersey. If you have any questions about SEND please do not hesitate to give Miss Begley a call.

Covid

With Covid rates still high, we are continuing with our common-sense approach towards Covid. Staff test twice weekly at home and wear masks in communal areas or crowded spaces. Children only mix with their own class indoors, but can play out with children in other classes. Although staff and children have had Covid, the quality of teaching and learning has always remained high thanks to the dedicated, skilled staff that we have.

As ever, it is nice to speak with you outside and we thank you for all your continued support with the children and school.

Keep up to date with us on Twitter, Facebook, Seesaw and Marvellous Me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Birtwistle', written in a cursive style.

R Birtwistle
Head Teacher.