



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to school from all the staff at Clifford Bridge Academy. I hope you enjoyed the two week break, and had opportunity for some quality family time and festive celebrations. It has been wonderful to see the children rush through the doors as the new school term begins. Thank you, as ever, for your efforts in ensuring that they are smart and in full school uniform and black shoes. Could you please make sure that the children's jumpers and cardigans have been labelled (an indelible marker with their initials on the label is enough). With the cold weather upon us, please remember to have your child dressed appropriately for walking to and from school and outdoor play.

We warmly welcome Mr Tim Burridge to Clifford Bridge this term. He is joining our teaching team in year 5 for the duration of the Spring Term. Please do say hello if you see him in and around school. We welcome Miss Moore back to school this term following her surgery last term. It is lovely to have her back in the building, and the children in 2m (and across school!) were delighted to see her.

Both Mrs Farrington-Smith and Mrs Jonck are due to begin their maternity leave at some point this term, as they each prepare to welcome their new arrivals. We are busy in the background finalising our cover plans to ensure both classes have the excellent standard of teaching continued in their absence. We will of course keep parents and children informed and updated nearer the time.

Other Information in Brief

- **Merit Assemblies** will commence on Friday 18th January 2019. We will be holding these assemblies on Friday mornings at 9.00 am for children from Year 1 to Year 6.
- Walking Home from School.** It is always a tricky decision for parents as to when it is appropriate for your children to widen their independence and begin walking home from school themselves. This is a personal decision, but we would recommend that only parents of Year 5 and 6 pupils should consider it. If older siblings are picking children up from school, ideally they should be 14 years or older to accompany them home by themselves. We will need these siblings adding to your child's collection forms, otherwise we will be unable to release your child from school until we have spoken with you.
- **Diary Dates.** We will be sending the full list of diary dates for the Spring term on Friday 18th January. The class curriculum letters will go out at the same time.

I hope this information proves useful. Please remember you can keep up-to-date with all that goes on at Clifford Bridge; through Class Dojo, the weekly newsletters and our school website.

I look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks, and wish you all the very best for the New Year. On a personal note, I would like to say a huge thank you for the many cards, kind words and gifts sent in to school at the end of last term, both for myself and for the staff team. We feel very lucky to have such a supportive and thoughtful school community, and really do appreciate your kindness and generosity.

Amy Husband
Head Teacher