

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you very much for the completed questionnaires which have flooded in. I hope that the thought of winning the vouchers as well as taking the opportunity to let us know what you think spurred you on to complete the forms. We are gathering the data from the returns and will report more fully once all of this has been processed.

### **Come and join us**

We are planning to open up classrooms to enable Parents/Carers to join their child for a Literacy or Numeracy lesson. We hope that this will enable parents/carers to understand more fully your child learns within these areas of the curriculum. You will I hope appreciate that we will need to manage this very carefully so that disruption to the class/school is minimised. An initial group of classes will be identified parents/carers will be informed. We apologise in advance that the dates offered may not be suitable but hope this is the first wave of the initiative.

### **Swine Flu update**

We are still being advised that Swine Flu numbers will increase over the next few weeks. Good hygiene is essential in combating the spread of the illness and we continue to promote healthy hygiene in school. The guidance remains to be that if a child displays flu like symptoms they should not be in school. This means that you will need to take advice from the help lines and GP surgeries. If during the day your child exhibits the symptoms we will call you and request that they are taken home. Schools will endeavour to remain open throughout such times but in extreme circumstances school closure may need to be considered.

### **Golden Time**

Friday afternoon in school has changed. Achievement assembly is now in the morning with Golden Time remaining as the last 30 minutes of the day. This has created a more favourable timetable for classes particularly given our packed curriculum and everything we wish to deliver. Golden Time was introduced for all classes as part of our rewards system and in the main has worked successfully. Pupil choice has been at the heart of this reward. Activities were arranged for each Key Stage including computers, arts, games, music, disco and alike.

For some children however the range of activities offered was never really of interest to them and not one they would choose. This has led to Golden Time for some being less important and consequently not worth behaving well in order to keep it.

In our review we have noted that for some this has now become a pattern or trend affecting their behaviour. Golden Time this year is organised differently and will be in individual classes or year groups ensuring that staff can monitor behaviour issues more closely during this time. Therefore the range of activities available for children has inevitably been reduced. There will be a choice but reflecting the resources available to each year group. During wet weather class based options will be another limiting factor.

The introduction of new technologies was in response to pupil voice and clear indication that this would add to the appeal of Golden Time. This would assist the school as children who had routinely been losing Golden Time might feel that it was worth keeping. School has made very clear to the children that Parents/Carers will decide whether that is an option for them and we fully support their decision. It was also stressed that for those who do not have a games machine school will be providing some access to this technology in the Form of Wii Fit activities as well as some DS Brain Builder. However this will take time and will be limited.

Some of you will have concerns and have shared them directly with me or via Class Teachers. We respect and support your decision whether it is to allow or not allow your child to bring in a games machine for Golden Time. We plan to monitor the situation very carefully and look at the incidence of lost Golden Time.

Yours sincerely,  
Mr Wilding  
Headteacher