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Dear Parent,

3rd February, 2021

#### ***PTA Christmas Raffle***

The Christmas raffle raised a staggering £3977. An amazing total! Many thanks to everyone who supported our raffle and especially to the businesses who donated prizes. The money raised will go towards ICT equipment and the subscriptions for Seesaw, Mathletics and Bug Club. Every pupil will benefit from this money. Thank you on behalf of all our pupils.

#### ***REACH Christmas Charity***

The grand total raised for our Christmas charity was £1425.50. Many thanks to everyone who donated towards our charity. The money will go towards helping families of children living with upper limb differences.

#### ***Supervised Learning***

If your child attends supervised learning we ask that they are kept at home if they are unwell, especially in the current climate. From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February children attending supervised learning can wear tracksuit bottoms and trainers each day. If you do not have the APS tracksuit bottoms, plain navy or black bottoms are fine. This allows for physical activity at break, lunch and daily PE/Play sessions. If you have your child booked in any given day and your circumstances change, please let me know if they are not attending. Please also ensure your child brings a coat and their learning pack to school with them and that they haven't already done the work set for that day, as we follow the teacher's timetable.

If you leave your child into the foyer in the mornings, there is now a one-way system in place to avoid congestion. Please exit through the door at our UICT suite.

#### ***Half term***

It was with sadness and frustration that we heard of the news to keep schools closed until at least 8<sup>th</sup> March. Nothing can replace the benefits of face-to-face teaching within classrooms. That said, rest assured that our senior leadership team and the teaching staff continuously strive to think of innovative and creative ways to deliver a remote curriculum to your children.

School will close on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February for half term. There will be no remote or supervised learning from 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you to all parents and teachers for ensuring the children's learning continues to be meaningful and shows progression in the most difficult of circumstances. Thanks also to our classroom assistants who have been key to the successful operation of supervised learning. Remote and supervised learning will recommence on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. **Fortnightly packs can be collected on the morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> February at the following times:**

#### **Collection times:**

P1CM -0915	P6K - 1015
P1LM - 1015	P7E -0915
P2DE -0915	P7D - 1015
P2MJ - 1015	P6M - 0915
P3C - 0915	P5RM -1015
P3RB - 1015	P4L - 0915
P4M -1015	P5KR - 0915

#### ***Primary 7 parent consultations***

These consultations will be conducted via zoom on 2,3,4,5 March. Following the publication of post primary schools' entrance criteria on the EA website, you will get a time slot and in attendance will be Mr Fegan and your child's P7 teacher. It is important to thoroughly inspect the criteria of the schools your child is interested in attending prior to this meeting. For all other details refer to my e-mail last week. We will do our best to help you and your child make the correct decisions, ensuring the schools chosen are the best fit for your child's individual needs, interests and ability.

#### ***Mental Health and Emotional Well-being Day – 26<sup>th</sup> February***

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February we will have an **emotional well-being day**. No Literacy or Numeracy will be set that day. Instead, our well-being team at Academy PS will offer advice and activities for the children, focussing on their mental health and emotional well-being. The morning session will include activities on emotional regulation, anxiety management, breathing techniques and mindfulness. The afternoon session will have a focus on physical activity and hobbies.

Many thanks for your continued patience, encouragement and support,

R. W. Fegan  
Principal