

# CROFTON NEWS - JANUARY 2023

## VIEW FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

I would like to welcome everyone back to school and wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year.

The governing body have been very active recently, undertaking training for various aspects of safeguarding, which is a vital part of our role and preparing to complete our January 11<sup>th</sup> monitoring visit, which will focus on how school are helping children develop their reading skills. Supporting children's understanding of phonics and developing their fluency and comprehension skills are key elements of the school's work when children transition from the infants' school. As with everything, some children make this transition easily and some need further support as they move through school. We are clear as governors that reading is the key gateway skill that enables children to access and achieve in all subjects and that is why we believe that reading 3 times per week at home is a key element of the school's homework policy. In order to ensure that we are able to have a good understanding of how effective the school are in supporting the children develop their reading skills, we will be:

- Speaking to Miss Watson with regard to the impact of her work as Reading Co-ordinator
- Watching phonics groups
- Watching whole class reading fluency and comprehension sessions
- Hearing children read
- Talking to children about how they feel school supports them become better at reading and what school could do better

It is always a pleasure to visit school and see the children working. It is a critical aspect of our role, providing governors with greater insight and, therefore, enabling us to support and challenge school's senior leaders, so that school continues to improve and provide the outstanding quality of education that all children deserve.

If you feel that you could support us and would be interested in becoming a school governor, or simply wish to find out more, please contact the school. Please do not feel as though you need to have experience of working in education; it is very important that our governing body reflects a wide range of backgrounds, knowledge and experiences in order to support the school effectively.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Stephanie Borman  
Chair of Governors



## ONLINE SAFETY

As many of our children will have received electronic devices which enable them to access the internet, we have decided to extend the offer for our IT technician to explain how to add parental safety settings, if you are unsure, until the end of January. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, Mr Bibby will be available in the school office **8:30-9:30am and 2:00-3:00pm every Friday until Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January.**

## ATTENDANCE

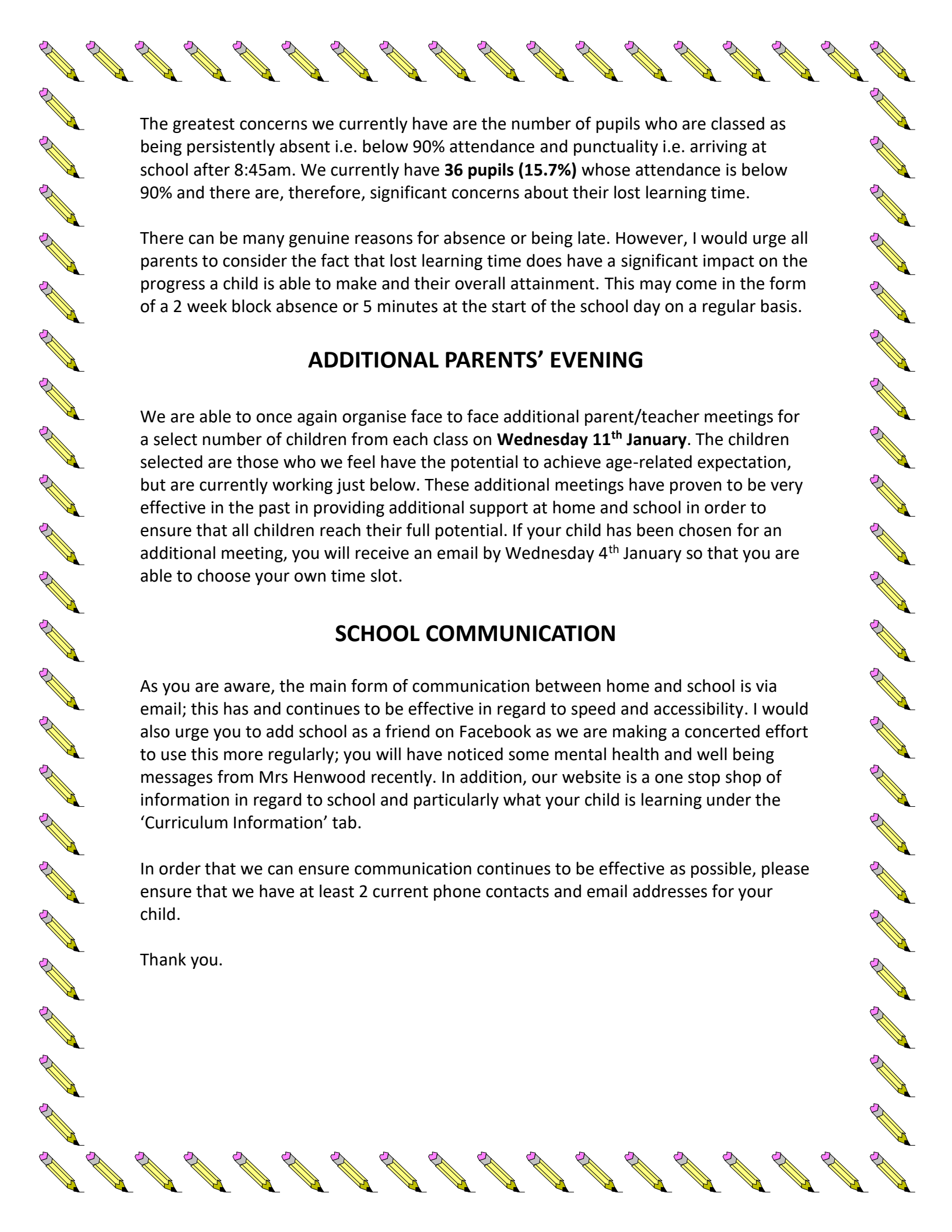
The overall school attendance at the end of the autumn term was **94.48%**, which remains in the 'Amber – Worrying Attendance' category.

<b>Outstanding attendance</b> Blue: 98%-100%	The best chance of success.
<b>Good attendance</b> Green: 95% – 97.9%	
<b>Worrying attendance</b> Amber: 90% - 94.9%	Less chance of success because of periods of lost learning time. Makes it harder to progress well.
<b>Serious Concerns attendance Red: below 90% about</b>	Significant lost learning time.

Individual class attendance currently is:

- Elf Owls – 93.83%
- Snowy Owls – 93.26%
- Sooty Owls – 95.28%
- Spotted Owls – 94.14%
- Barn Owls – 95.09%
- Tawny Owls – 95.97%
- Eagle Owls – 94.66%
- Hawk Owls – 93.71%

Tawny Owls have earned the most money (**£30**) so far towards an end of year treat of their choosing. Each week, the class with the highest attendance is awarded £5.



The greatest concerns we currently have are the number of pupils who are classed as being persistently absent i.e. below 90% attendance and punctuality i.e. arriving at school after 8:45am. We currently have **36 pupils (15.7%)** whose attendance is below 90% and there are, therefore, significant concerns about their lost learning time.

There can be many genuine reasons for absence or being late. However, I would urge all parents to consider the fact that lost learning time does have a significant impact on the progress a child is able to make and their overall attainment. This may come in the form of a 2 week block absence or 5 minutes at the start of the school day on a regular basis.

### **ADDITIONAL PARENTS' EVENING**

We are able to once again organise face to face additional parent/teacher meetings for a select number of children from each class on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January**. The children selected are those who we feel have the potential to achieve age-related expectation, but are currently working just below. These additional meetings have proven to be very effective in the past in providing additional support at home and school in order to ensure that all children reach their full potential. If your child has been chosen for an additional meeting, you will receive an email by Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January so that you are able to choose your own time slot.

### **SCHOOL COMMUNICATION**

As you are aware, the main form of communication between home and school is via email; this has and continues to be effective in regard to speed and accessibility. I would also urge you to add school as a friend on Facebook as we are making a concerted effort to use this more regularly; you will have noticed some mental health and well being messages from Mrs Henwood recently. In addition, our website is a one stop shop of information in regard to school and particularly what your child is learning under the 'Curriculum Information' tab.

In order that we can ensure communication continues to be effective as possible, please ensure that we have at least 2 current phone contacts and email addresses for your child.

Thank you.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

I would like to thank everyone on behalf of school, Wakefield Hospice and St Catherine's Church Foodbank for your incredibly generous support of our Reindeer Run and Adverse Calendar events. We raised an amazing total of £2,082.46 for Wakefield Hospice and the representative from St Catherine's Church was overwhelmed by the amount of food that was donated. I have explained to the children how everyone's support has made such a positive difference and they should feel extremely proud of themselves.

## DIARY DATES

- Young Voices – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January
- Rearranged Elf Owls Inspire – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January
- Additional Parents' Evening – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January
- Year 5 Bikeability – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February
- RSPCA assembly – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February
- Bake sale in support of the RSPCA – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February
- Break up for half term – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February
- Return to school – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February
- Year 5 residential to Robinwood – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March
- Year 6 residential to France – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March / early hours of Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April
- Break up for Easter – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March
- Return to school – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April
- May Day – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May
- **Bank Holiday for the King's coronation – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May**
- **Year 6 SATs Week – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May \*this is a change to the original date**
- Children break up for half term – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May
- Inset Day – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May
- Return to school – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June
- Year 3 visit to Murton Park – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July
- Children break up for the summer – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July
- Inset Day – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July

Please look out for further dates in the year.

Yours faithfully  
Mr P. Birdsall  
Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead