



***Be the best you can be...***

To the families of Year 5&6 pupils,

With the end of this year looming, we're looking ahead to the remaining two terms of the academic year. For Year 5&6 specifically there are a number of things to be aware of for January and beyond:

## 1. Mrs McKenna's Maternity Leave

As you know, Mrs McKenna's new arrival is not far off now. She has decided to begin her Maternity leave next week, and arrangements have been made in accordance with this.

During her absence, the class will be taught by Mrs Harper, who has already had opportunities to work with the children over the past fortnight. She will be taking over full time from December 6<sup>th</sup>. Mrs McKenna is anticipating a return in September 2022.

## 2. BIKEABILITY – 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Thank you to everyone who has already returned their bikeability slips. It's great that the provider has agreed to put both year 5 & 6 through their paces this year, enabling us to get this valuable road safety programme back on track.

Please try to use the December break to check that brakes etc are in working order, especially if bikes have been used infrequently in the past year, and that helmets fit!

## 3. Year 6 National Curriculum Assessments – May 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2022

Despite the continuing uncertainty surrounding Covid-19, the DfE have assured schools that National Curriculum testing will go ahead as normal for years 2&6 this year.

They have also acknowledged that the results should be used as an indication of the impact of the pandemic above all else, and will not be publishing school level data.

As always, our aim will be to work with pupils to prepare them for these assessments as fully as possible, whilst not allowing them to overshadow other aspects of the primary school experience.

## 4. Dukes Barn residential – May 23<sup>rd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> 2022

We have the week before the May half term booked for a four-night trip to Derbyshire alongside Lanercost pupils.

The expected cost this year will be approximately £300 per pupil after we have applied various subsidies and families of pupils eligible under the pupil premium grant will receive further support with the costs of attending.

Full details and requests for deposits (£50) will be sent out *after* Christmas, via ParentPay.