

16th December 2022

Dear Families,

Re: Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Wow! What a term! It has been fantastic having a full Autumn term after so many disruptions in recent years and what wonderful things your children have been part of. We had the Christmas Concert on Monday evening and the Pantomime on Wednesday and already, I hear Ms Ruston is already thinking about what we will be doing for next year! Well done to all our performers and the performing arts department for their hard work – not only for the concerts/performances themselves but for the hours of rehearsals that it took to get everyone performance ready.

Many of your children received rewards in Small Schools and assemblies over the last few weeks and many students will have a surprise in the post over the coming days to praise their excellent achievements, progress and conduct in school. I had the pleasure of signing lots of 'gold' letters today for year 9 and 11 following the first data drop that will be in the post for those who have worked incredibly hard and as a result have made good progress. If you receive one of these, well done!

Thank you to everyone who donated items to the Newport Food Bank – we are very proud that Aqualate Small School were able to donate hundreds of items and present a cheque of over £500 because of everybody's kindness. We hope that our donations will enable families who are struggling with the cost of living at the moment to have a positive festive period.

We are very excited to announce that early in the new year, we will be introducing a cashless system that I know many of you will be very pleased about. Yes, no more need for cash! We anticipate running the system alongside the usual cash payment system at first until everybody is familiar with how to use it. All students, including students on free school meals, will receive a fob where payments can be loaded. More information to follow in the new year!

In our last student survey, many students told us that they do not feel safe as they come to and from school due to the narrow pavements and occasions where some cars drive onto the pavements when Audley Avenue is busy. We have met with the Principal Road Safety Education Officer and our concerns have been taken on board, with the Town Council supporting us with a speed indicator device. We hope that further meetings will be held and that more can be done to ensure the safety of our students as they walk to school and home.

In the new year, I would like to hold a 'Meet the Principal' event around communication as I know that this has not been as smooth as it should be from feedback that I have received from families. I will inform you of the date of when this meeting will take place after the break. I hope to see you there.

Have a fantastic Christmas break and peaceful new year. I look forward to seeing your children and working with you in 2023!

Yours sincerely and best wishes,



Krissi Carter
Principal