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Principal's message to families – 12th January 2024

Next week's Lower school word of the week is - [bounce](#)
The Upper school word of the week is – [compare](#)

Dear Families,
Welcome to 2024 at Dawn House School!

We have an **exciting year ahead** with the main feature being that the year is the schools official **50th birthday**. Over the next weeks we will be pulling together a plan for the year which will include a competition to devise a logo, thoughts about birthday merchandise and a whole host of fun events that may also generate some income for the school.

Staff started the year with 2 days of planning and learning time. We ran First Aid and Lifeguarding training, did some learning about PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance), information sharing about a whole school resource we are producing and some external safeguarding updates. It was a busy return to school and in our reflections of the amount of statutory training we need to complete and the ongoing learning we need to provide for staff to ensure expertise and skill, we have decided to add an **extra INSET day** to this school year. This will be on **July 1st**, so school will be closed to children.

Talking of dates, our term dates are now on the website and as usual, follow the Nottinghamshire County Council school holidays. Our INSET days are detailed on there. I also draw you attention to a date for your diaries- **Saturday 30th November will be our Parents' Day** (a whole day this time as time was a little short when we tried to condense the last one). This will also host our Christmas Fair, so we will be happy for you to bring additional family members and will provide space for them to wait and have refreshments.

Following this day, on **Monday 2nd Dec, school will be closed** to pupils and to child facing staff.

It seems early to be thinking of next Christmas I know, but hopefully it helps with your forward planning.

This is also a good time to thank you all for your support of our Christmas Fair and show 2023. It was amazing to see so many new faces and to have so many of you supporting the day. We made a record breaking (almost) **£1,400** from the stalls, the raffle and all the other activities on the day. The Friends of Dawn House are the parent/staff group who get together to share ideas and run all of these events, so a big thank you to them and a call out to any of you out there who would like to join us. It's a great way of meeting other parents and getting involved in the life of the school. We plan to arrange monthly meetings



which we will set the dates for this week and let you know. We love to have people join us, even if you can't make every meeting or have limited availability. I'll share dates for these meetings in next week's newsletter.

Thank you too for all the **Amazon Wishlist** gifts that you have sent through to us. We will be sharing these out across school next week, so there will be lots of happy children and staff! Here's the link in case you'd like a look...

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/254DMG1FZMRMY?ref=wl_share

One of our upcoming **Friends of Dawn House fundraising** events is the Bags 4 School collection on **Wednesday 28th February** 2024. Unfortunately, at the moment, we have no storage space to bring the bags in before this date, so please can you bring into school on the date above. Please think of us when you do your 'end of winter' clear-out and send things to us rather than taking to the charity shop!

In **other news this week**, we had great assemblies on Monday about how to think about what we eat and that everything is ok in moderation (thank goodness, as there are lots of Christmas chocolates around school this week!) but to look out for the traffic light system now on all the foods that we buy, to help us be as healthy as we can. I wonder if your children can show you some examples from items in your cupboard?

And for you for the rest of the term...

Thursday 25th /Friday 26th January mornings (online) - Mental Health First Aid training for interested parents and non-DHS professionals (contact Kathy Horton)

Saturday 10th March- new parents of potential pupils open morning (if any parents of current pupils would like to join us that would be amazing- nothing more powerful than the voice of a parent)

We will share upcoming events for children in next week's newsletter.

Goodbye for now, enjoy your weekend.

Jenny.

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If your child leaves home in the morning a little unsettled and you want to quickly tell us, so we know to expect a tricky start to the day, a quick email (that we can follow up later) to the tutor and/or core team with **'Handle with Care'** in the email title will ensure that we are aware.