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16th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to express my sincere thanks for your continuous support and interest in your child's school life. It was very important for both the students and staff to have so many of you attending the Christmas productions at Breakspeare and Meadow Wood Schools.

It is essential that our students have the opportunity to experience the hustle and bustle of everyone being together and participating in a shared experience; where students are performing and demonstrating their skills and talents. Supporting the students' personal development and individual talents takes many forms in our schools. For one student entering the hall, even briefly, is a massive achievement and for another student it may be the use of the microphone or joining in with a group performance and is worthy of celebration. It was heart-warming to witness these individual successes with the staff, other students and many of you and family friends.

In order to strengthen our partnership with parents we are establishing a parent working party in both of our schools.

The first meetings are

- Meadow Wood School Friday 10th January 10 am (for Meadow Wood parents and carers)
- Breakspeare School Friday 30th January 10 am (for Breakspeare parents and carers)

The purpose of these working parties is

- to provide a new forum for school development
- to strengthen liaison with the key stakeholders e.g. parents / carers and the leadership of the federation

The first meeting is to establish working practice. I would like to discuss with Meadow Wood parents/carers about creating a charitable status for the school, 'Friends of Meadow Wood'. Then with Breakspeare parents I would like to discuss the increased student numbers and the school environment. Please mark the dates in your busy calendars; it would be brilliant if as many of you as possible could attend these discussions.

Could Breakspeare parents / carers please mark in your calendars our FAB (Friends at Breakspeare) coffee morning that will take place on Friday 17th January 10 am. Welcome!

I will send you further information in January about the Local Authority's plans to manage future demands of SLD and PNI places in Three Rivers, Watford and Hertsmere. This is a complicated matter as both Breakspeare and Meadow Wood Schools' predicted student numbers over the next few years are extremely high. Herts County Council will make their final decision about a short term solution to the increase in numbers in Three SEN Schools on 24th December. This would mean an increase of 8 students at Breakspeare for September 2020.

Caroline Day-Lewis has asked me to express Christmas best wishes to everyone. She is doing well and is moving to the next stage in her treatment plan.

It has been a pleasure to see your child's development during the autumn term. The spring term for the students will start on Tuesday 7th January.

I wish you a very relaxing Christmas holiday and a very happy New Year.

Best wishes,
Merja