



Happy New Year to all, I hope you had a restful break. It has been so lovely to be back and the children have been very excited about their new learning topics. Year group newsletters will have gone out and are also available on Tapestry.

Chinese New Year

Sunday 22nd January is the Chinese New Year. This year is the year of the rabbit and is celebrated around the world. Part of our curriculum is to learn about other cultures so as a school we will be joining in the celebrations. Children can come in wearing red, gold or black (traditional colours) or if they have traditional clothes they may wear those too. Robert Miles Club are also joining in the celebrations and have lots of fun activities planned. To book a place please use the Schools Buddy App or speak to the office.

School Lunch

Thank you to Vicky and our kitchen team who laid on what was remarked as being the best Christmas lunch ever! They are busy preparing a special Chinese New Year menu for next **Friday 20th January** as part of our whole school celebrations. As with Christmas this will be a whole school offer and every child will have a lunch ordered for them. Please do not send packed lunches in on that day.

Just to note that next week there will be a slight menu change and the Tuesday and Thursday have swapped around. So it will be chicken curry on Tuesday and burger on Thursday.

Smart Watches

Some children had smart watches over Christmas (lucky them). We do not allow children to have any devices which have the capability of taking photographs so please do not send these into school.

Staff training

For our INSET last Friday staff attended a conference hosted by Shirley Clarke. Shirley is a world-wide leader of education and has published many books on her work. As a school we are looking at teaching our children about what makes a good learner and to develop the characteristics that enable them to learn. They have been introduced to three animals who represent certain learning characteristics. They have an elephant to represent 'Thinking Critically', a wolf for 'Playing and Exploring' and an octopus for 'Active Learning'. These form our Positive Attitudes to Learning (PALS) and the teachers use them to encourage children to take ownership of their learning. You may hear your child talking about what they have been learning at school and how they showed resilience or motivation, for example.

School Grounds

Over the break we had some seating made for our forest school area. This enables every child to have a seat under the canopy (handy with all the rain we have had!). Unfortunately it was too wet to lay the turf but we are hoping that this will be done over the next couple of weeks. We have ordered a new trim trail to replace the rotten one which had to be removed and this should arrive this half term. We have also replaced the old picket fence so we are looking pretty smart now.

School Places

If you know someone who is looking for a place in school this September please ask them to contact the office or apply online at: [Apply for a school place](#)

We have a few places remaining in other years if you know of someone who is looking for a school place.

Extra funding

You may be able to help us access some additional funding for school. If you are in receipt of certain benefits you may be entitled. The form takes 5 minutes to complete. School is notified if you are successful and we are then able to offer you 10 free places at Robert Miles Club and a free bookbag (worth over £100). This money enables us to offer additional support to pupils so we would really appreciate you taking the time to fill in the form. Just follow this link:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk>

Thank you so much for the warm welcome back. I'm so proud to be part of the Robert Miles Community.

Have a great weekend,
Sonja Adams