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13th September 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Sabden Primary School,

We started our new academic year with the usual sense of anticipation and fear of early mornings, looking forward to being together again and already thinking about Christmas. It was so lovely to see everyone, all rested and eager to get started.

This year we welcomed two new families to our school community; The Mistry and the Gibbs families who join Year 4 and Year 2 respectively. Welcome!

The first few days of term went well. Our new reception children started 'big school' and although most of them attended our nursery it is still an exciting new journey for them as it's the start of 'real school'. Only a few tears this year but the children have been great!

Our new Year 6 pupils came back with an air of independence and authority; it's amazing what a jade coloured sweatshirt can do. They have taken on their new roles with vigour and determination and will no doubt make themselves indispensable over this next year.

And then of course we received the saddest of news about the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II last Thursday. Our thoughts often turn to our own mortality or the loss of our own loved ones at times like this and whilst we grieve for the nation's loss we may also feel the pain of our own loss too.

As you will already know school will be closed on Monday 19th September as we observe the national day of mourning and witness the historical event of a state funeral.

Last week I sent out an invitation for children and parents to contribute to the school's book of condolence. I would be very grateful if children could spend a few hours creating something for the book – a drawing, poem, message, letter. Whatever they make it will be gratefully received. Parents and friends of school can also come along and write their own message should they wish.

I have attached a new 'What's On' for the Autumn Term with another following for December and Christmas nearer the time. Although we have provided the children with lots of activities to do over the next few months I have been mindful of not organising too many events that require a charge. I am aware that many of you may be worrying about the months ahead and that every day it seems that the news is filled with notice of rising costs, unrest and general doom and gloom.

Headteacher Elizabeth Maskell
B.Ed (Hons), N.P.Q.H.

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However, looking forward to happier moments I have booked places for Year 2 to Year 6 pupils to watch The Lion King at the Palace Theatre, Manchester for January. We have already put it on parentpay so that you can pay in instalments over the next few months to help ease the burden.

By popular demand we have also brought back our 'Hogwarts Week' for the week leading up to the Christmas holidays. More details will come nearer the time but as we did previously all children wear a witch/wizard/Harry Potter hat and cape over their school uniform for the whole week so maybe have a look out for ones in the sale after Hallowe'en.

I hope that this newsletter finds you well.

Best wishes

Elizabeth Maskell

