

Homework –

Friday 6th December 2019



Mrs Taylor



Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you like the Christmas tree at the top of the homework front page – I was inspired by our lovely new Christmas tree in the hall (kindly donated by Asda) which has a self-lighting system☺. As usual, we will be decorating the tree by asking children to bring in a single ornament each so that everyone feels that they are part of the celebration... I am also reminding children about the relative newness of some of our ‘Christmas traditions’ (Christmas trees only became popular in the UK in the 19th Century, Christmas crackers were invented at about the same time – by Tom Smith – and our understanding of what Father Christmas looks like is based on a coca cola advert from 1931!!!) as opposed to the true story of Christmas – with Christ’s birth in a humble stable in Bethlehem, which of course is over 2,000 years old.

I hope that everyone has read the Ofsted report that was sent home this week; it is now up on the Ivanhoe website and will be on the Ofsted website soon. I have had Ofsted visits now in four different schools over a twenty-five year period – in one school that was in Special Measures, we had visits every term, but I must have had seven or eight other full visits. What these visits have in common is that they make schools very nervous because Ofsted has a huge amount of power to make or destroy a school’s reputation and no one ever feels confident - except the inspectors who always have complete confidence in their own judgements and really listen very little to what ordinary headteachers have to say: they listen carefully to parents who complain; but they don’t make much of parents who are overwhelmingly positive. Ofsted are supposed to be there to help schools to improve but I’m not sure that many teachers really feel the love...

I would also add that, historically, working class primaries are the least likely schools to be given the ‘outstanding’ grade, which is a terrible thing as it suggests that the system is not without unintentioned bias.

Finally, it has been a very long term – with Ofsted, the floods and the election, our school has had quite a bit to deal with. On the positive side, every time I go through the hall at the moment, I hear the KS1 children rehearsing their Nativity and I am reminded about what a wonderful time of the year this is – and most especially, for our young children ☺.

Please use the comment box below to write anything you have to say about the homework or about any other school issues...

Signed:

Please make sure that your child’s medical details and emergency contact numbers are with the office and up-to-date.