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Dear Parents/Carers

Father's Day – Sunday 21st June

Over the years, as family structures have changed and our world has become more diverse, we have discussed the inclusion of celebrating special days such as Mother's Day and Father's Day in school. Some schools no longer acknowledge these events at all. Some celebrate Mothering Sunday only, as it is linked to the religious calendar, but do not celebrate Father's Day. For some children, the focus on either of these days can be very distressing, bringing difficult circumstances to light and causing upset in front of their classmates.

We have thought long and hard about the right thing to do for our children. For every family with a traditional and present father or father figure, there will be another family where this is not the case. There is also an increasing number of families where children may not always live with, or have regular contact with, their mothers.

At this age, the complexities of family dynamics are not something we explore in depth with the children. Very young children generally do not see differences in the same way that older children and adults do. They approach life with innocence, before the emotional maturity that comes with growing up opens their eyes to the complexities of the wider world. They see family as the people who are in their lives. Our focus, through all of our PSHE work, is on recognising that we are all different, that families are different, and that this is something to celebrate. We celebrate the people who care for us. We talk about our trusted adults and how we show kindness and gratitude to those who support us.

As such, I wanted to let you know that we do acknowledge and celebrate both Mother's Day and Father's Day in school, but with a focus on who takes care of us and how we show gratitude and say thank you to the special people in our lives. We introduce the learning by asking the children if they know what special day is coming up at the weekend. Some will know and suggest that it is Father's Day. We then have a sensitive discussion with the children, reminding them that families are all different and shifting the emphasis to a celebration of family. This allows children to choose someone special in their family for whom they would like to make a card.

The children will be invited to make a card for someone special if they wish to do so, but this is entirely their choice. This approach allows all children to participate equally without drawing attention to individual circumstances. This does mean that your child may come home with a card for anyone in the family—and sometimes they even choose the dog! It may not necessarily be for their dad. If they work quickly, they may come home with more than one card. Equally, as the activity is optional, they may choose not to make a card and therefore come home without one.

The class teachers are very sensitive to any situations that we are aware of, but if you have any concerns, please do have a discreet word with your child's teacher next week.

The Big Future survey by The Children's Commissioner for England.

You are invited to take part in an important national survey from the Children's Commissioner for England called **The Big Future**. This survey gives children and young people a chance to share their views, experiences, and hopes for the future. It is an opportunity for their voices to be heard by people who make decisions about the services, support, and opportunities available to children across the country. You can access the survey online with your child at home. Taking part will allow your child to express what matters most to them, whether that is their education, wellbeing, community, safety, or future aspirations.

The Children's Commissioner uses the information gathered to better understand the lives of children and young people and to champion their needs at a national level. Every response helps build a clearer picture of what children want decision-makers to know.

You can access the survey here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TheBigFuture/> The survey is simple to complete and provides a valuable opportunity for your child to have a say on issues that affect them. We encourage all families to take a few minutes to participate and ensure that children's voices are represented. Thank you for supporting your child to contribute to this important piece of work.

Online safety reminder

We would like to remind parents and carers to regularly monitor their child's online activity and discuss safe internet use at home. Recently, we have become aware of some children accessing Snapchat, which has a minimum age requirement of 13 years old. While many older children use social media to communicate with friends, these platforms can expose them to inappropriate content, contact from strangers, and pressures around sharing personal information.

We have also had reports of children viewing videos featuring "Siren Head" on YouTube. Although Siren Head is a fictional horror character, some videos and images can be frightening for younger children and may cause anxiety, sleep difficulties, or worries. Content featuring Siren Head can also appear alongside other horror-themed material that is not suitable for primary-aged children.

We encourage parents and carers to regularly check privacy settings, use parental controls where appropriate, and talk openly with their children about what they are watching, who they are communicating with, and what to do if they see something that makes them feel uncomfortable or worried.

Ongoing events:

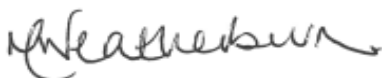
Beat the Street – Wednesday 10th June to Wednesday 8th July. We have spare cards in school if anyone needs extra. Please ask your child's teacher.

Scholastic Book Fair – Wednesday 10th – Monday 15th June. There is still time to stock up for the Summer. The last day to buy books will be Monday.

Finally, please ensure you keep us informed of any changes to phone numbers, addresses etc. Whilst we plan and hope for no emergencies, we do want to be prepared just in case.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or need any further support.

Yours sincerely



Mary Weatherburn
Headteacher