



12<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Dear Parents,

A HAPPY NEW YEAR! Our start has certainly been eventful though it has been delightful to welcome your boys back into A.P.S. following a very testing start to our Spring Term. I must say that the Highbury boys looked exceedingly smart when I held my assembly on Monday morning and the Marlborough Road boys did not disappoint this morning. They all seemed to have had a fantastic break but also appear keen to have returned to APS.

I do have to thank you all for your understanding and support last week. Whilst we, together, managed to get about half of Highbury back into school on Friday (with only 6% of the Trafford Schools being opened) it was most disappointing that the same was not true for Marlborough Road. However, circumstances outside our control were against us and, despite being on the case from 6.00am onwards, it proved impossible to get the gas and water flowing in time for the school to be functional. Attractive though the snow and cold weather can be, let's hope it is the last for this year particularly for those who have suffered burst pipes and lack of heating.

I feel I should say that I am delighted that our lines of communication have proven to be successful - 2640 texts with a 97% hit rate, 300 emails with a 95% transmission success and a website with a 1,000 plus hits per day. This informs as to how hard some people have worked, in particular our Governor Mr A. Hill and Mrs. Marchant. I cannot thank them enough. Likewise staff have not been idle if caught at home unable to get in; the majority risked accident and injury to be in for most of the days. They provided work for the 'Remote Learning' and now have the additional task of looking through completed exercises. I hope you will understand if it takes them a little time to get through what they have received. They will communicate with you about this.

You will have noted that we were due an Inspection this week. This has been postponed. The new cycle means that we don't receive more than a week's forewarning about the arrival of an Inspection team so I am unable to tell you when the Inspection might happen. For those of you who completed the Parents' questionnaire I thank you. I am not sure how the information received will be handled; whether or not it is transferred or it has to be all done again from scratch I await instruction.

Please can I remind you about drop off and pick up times. We did scrutinise our arrangements regarding drop off and collection in order to check on our procedures and the only highlight we had where we might be found wanting referred to those Parents who do not follow our procedures. To remind you:

Drop off between            8.45am – 8.55am

unless booked in to Pre-school Club or 8.30am drop off has been formally requested – this is my area of concern; too many parents seem to be dropping off their son before 8.30 without having made arrangements for him to attend the pre-school club or informing us of a wish to drop off at 8.30am. This lack of adherence exposes the school to a health and safety issue.

8.55am Registration and 9.00am Lessons start

Pick up – please could you be prompt when picking up their children at the end of the day.

As communication with you electronically by the web site/SMS/email has now been tested I would appreciate a little feedback from you so that I can review the effectiveness of electronic communication. Would you, therefore, please complete and return the slip below, to your son's class teacher, if any contact details have changed or if you wish to make comment.

My kind regards,

Andrew C. Potts.

Head Master.

**Communications Responses** (Please **print** mobile numbers and email addresses)

Son's Name ..... Form .....

Name .....

I received the SMS text messages Yes / No\*      The number used is the most appropriate for me Yes / No\*

Please advise if you wish to add / change\* the number we used .....

I received the email from school on Thursday 8 January Yes/ No

Please advise if you wish to add / change\* the email address we used .....

My son accessed the 'Remote Learning' on the school website. Yes / No\*

\*Please delete as appropriate

Any further comments.....

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