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19th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a chilly start to the new year! Whilst the school building is lovely and warm, we are mindful that some children are cold when they go outside at lunchtime or playtime. On very cold days we reduce the time spent outside but if you need any assistance with warm school uniform for your child then please speak to a member of staff or contact the school office.

We are happy to confirm that the Mayor is extending the Universal Free School Meals funding for another academic year from September 2024 to July 2025. We are very pleased that over 93% of our children are having a daily school meal at lunchtime carefully prepared by our chef Hussein and his team from Pabulum. The current menu is available on the school website under Key Information/ Healthy School and School Meals so please have a look at this and consider your child having a daily free school meal if they do not already do so. Please speak to a member of the office staff if you have any queries.

This letter provides more information about the extension:

[Letter to Families](#)

For more information about this and anything else about the scheme please visit the online hub:

[London Mayor Free School Meals](#)

We have been asked by the Met Police to share the following information to support one another in keeping our children and young people safe:



As children return back to school after the Christmas break some may have been lucky enough to receive new phones or high value clothing they are keen to use and wear.

Robbery is a main priority for police officers in Croydon and we continue to patrol in key areas in order to prevent offending and catch offenders. Our analysis shows that young people are generally targeted by other young

people for phones and high value clothing such as designer coats. We offer DNA tagging for mobile phones and advise parents to understand how they can monitor these electrical devices through family accounts and other useful apps.

Listen to any advice from your school that helps you keep safe. Speak to your teachers if you are worried about your or a friend's safety.

If you are a victim of crime, don't get into a confrontation – your safety is more important! If you can, try to remember distinctive things about any suspect. Did they have any distinctive clothing, brands,

colours? Did they have any particular type of footwear? Did they have any marks, scars, hair styles? What was the approximate age of the suspect? Were they from another school?

Try to find a safe place and a capable guardian as soon as possible i.e. a shop keeper or responsible adult and try and report the incident to police as soon as possible. Don't wait until you get home from school or the next day. Also make school staff aware as soon as possible.

It is important for parents/guardians to know where children are as best they can, how they are getting home and what route they take? Location settings on devices can assist with this.

For more advice visit the Met Police website

<https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/personal-safety-how-to-stay-safe/mobile-phone-advice>

<https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/personal-safety-how-to-stay-safe/mugging-street-robbery/>

Our Year 5 classes enjoyed a fantastic trip to the National Portrait Gallery on Wednesday and took the opportunity to sketch some amazing portraits themselves. We were delighted to receive an email from a couple who were travelling on the same train as our children and were so impressed by them that they took the time to find the school email address to let us know how polite and courteous they were. We spend a great deal of time in school addressing social skills and values so it is lovely to get feedback from members of the public – well done Year 5.

Finally, we have some lovely news to share with you all. Mikki Newman, one of our Reception teachers, is very happy to be expecting a baby later this year! She is delighted and I am sure you will join with us in offering our very best wishes to her and her family.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend,

Helen Carvall