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Principal: Jennifer Giovannelli

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Dear all

As we wrap up the final week of term, I wanted to share some highlights and updates with you. It has been a **busy, eventful week**, with a few moments of excitement that have added to the atmosphere as we head into the half-term break.

Thursday's Spooky Event

On Thursday, our **catering team** put together an incredibly festive, **Halloween-themed event**. They transformed the restaurant with decorations and a **spooky menu** that left many children buzzing with excitement. I heard countless comments from them saying they'd "*never seen anything like it*" and thought it was "*really cool!*"

We did have one unexpected twist – the atmospheric smoke used to enhance the Halloween mood ended up setting off the **fire alarm**. This resulted in a **full evacuation**, and I want to commend our children for their **fantastic response**. Despite it being the last day of term and completely unplanned, they:

- **Assembled** in the correct area.
- Maintained **silence**, as expected.

Their maturity and readiness in these situations is something we're incredibly proud of.

Black History Month Concert

Thursday afternoon also marked the end of **Black History Month** with a **special concert** celebrating the diverse cultural heritage within our school community. The event was filled with **joyful**:

- **Singing.**
- **Dancing.**
- Children expressing **pride** in their cultural backgrounds.

Not only did they showcase impressive talent, but this event also resonated with our ongoing commitment to fostering a **sense of belonging** in every child.

Morning Meetings with Parents and Children

Each morning this week, I've had the pleasure of **meeting** with some of you and your children – undoubtedly the **best part of my day!** I want to reiterate that I am always more than happy to:

- **Meet with you.**
- **Discuss** how we can best support your child.

Some fantastic ideas have come from these conversations, and we are already seeing early impacts from the **approaches we're taking** to address children's unique challenges.

Our strategy is inspired by Dr. Ross Greene's **Collaborative Problem Solving** model. This involves working with children to solve challenges collaboratively, known as "**Plan B,**" which focuses on:

1. **Understanding** the child's perspectives.
2. **Identifying** any obstacles they face.
3. **Working together** on achievable solutions.

While it's early days, we're encouraged by the **success we're seeing**, and I'm confident this method will support **positive outcomes** for our young people.

Celebrating Attendance Progress

We've also been able to **reward children** for their **attendance progress** this week. For some young people, simply being in school can be a real accomplishment, and we made sure to:

- **Celebrate** those who have shown **excellent progress.**
- Focus on individual **attendance targets.**

Recognising their **commitment** to school, especially when it's challenging, is something we value deeply.

Productive Training Day

Our recent **training day** provided teams with the chance to **reconnect with their goals** for the year and engage in **collaborative planning.** We know how valuable this time is for enhancing the quality of provision for your children.

Our commitment to you: We make sure that every training day, when children aren't in school, is focused on planning and development that will directly benefit your child's learning experience.

Looking Ahead: Mock Exams and Parent Sessions

After the half-term break, we'll be starting the first **mock examination season** for **Year 11 and Year 13 students**. Parents in these year groups should have received individual communications about the upcoming assessments.

In addition, as we announced previously, this year we'll be holding a series of **parent sessions** for all year groups, designed to help you support your child with:

- **Assessments.**
- **Revision techniques.**
- **Study tips.**

We'll be sharing more details about these sessions after the break, and we look forward to welcoming you to these **valuable events**.

Please enjoy a **well-deserved half term**, and we look forward to welcoming all our children back on **Monday, 4th November**, ready for an **8:45 am start in their tutor groups**.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break,

Mrs Giovanelli