

#### Leeming RAF CP School

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*Headteacher – Mr. Rob Campbell*

Friday, 01 December 2023

Dear Parents,

Well, the winter weather is truly here and I just wanted to touch base with a few reminders and notes as we go into the last few weeks of term.

Firstly – thanks to all who have been signing up for our various Christmas events – Nativity, Christingle, Carol Service etc. – we are very much looking forward to these – I’ve seen some of the rehearsals for the Nativity already and the cute-factor is off the charts!

As the winter weather rolls in, a word about ‘snow days’. I know that many parents find these very difficult due to work commitments and I want to assure you that we will do all we possibly can to avoid these – Leeming has a great track record in this area – where many local schools have closed in the past, we’ve managed to remained open. However, I do have to remind parents that the majority of our teachers now travel long distances to school – a number come in from Richmond (always a high spot for snow), a number from Darlington and even one from Leeds. I mention this because even if conditions locally are reasonable, this doesn’t mean staff are able to actually get here and we can’t operate without our teachers! In the unfortunate event of a ‘snow day’, myself and the Chair of Governors will aim to make the call about whether it is safe to open as early as possible and by 0815 at the latest. Parents will be notified via Ping. Teachers will also send a message with some recommended home learning for the day, but again, we recognise that some parents will be home-working, and we don’t expect the children to spend 6 hours at a desk or staring at a screen.

Looking ahead to the final week of term, I’m aware that station stands down a week before we break up. Please note that *attendance right through to the end of term is compulsory*. The last week accounts for 7% of the term’s learning – while the children will be enjoying some fun Christmas activities, our curriculum is rich and full and we need this time to keep teaching and let them ‘finish well’. We do recognise that this is a long term (believe me, the staff feel it too!), but school can’t set the term dates, and so we’re bound by North Yorkshire’s calendar on this. I know some of you will be keen to get off and visit family etc., but I’m afraid that absences in that final week (unless in exceptional circumstances as defined by the DfE) will be treated as unauthorised and may incur fines. This includes the last day of term – when we have a special service in the afternoon that we don’t want children to miss. We have, however, tried to help with families who are keen to get on the road by having the early finish of 2pm.

The DfE have also requested that we remind parents of the following guidance with regards to attendance: [NHS Guidance: Is my child too ill for school?](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3Lm5ocy51ay9saXZlLXdlbGwvaXMtbXktY2hpbGQtdG9vLWlsbC1mb3Itc2Nob29sLz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMTI3Ljg2MTc5MjAxIn0.nOMTRDSnhSXL3C3bFdOD5PXFkx3LrTKLfn32-scGba4/s/1157949515/br/231589131815-l) and [Working together to improve school attendance.](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vYXNzZXRzLmNoaWxkcmVuc2NvbW1pc3Npb25lci5nb3YudWsvd3B1cGxvYWRzLzIwMjIvMTIvYWFhLWd1aWRlLWZvci1wYXJlbnRzLW9uLXNjaG9vbC1hdHRlbmRhbmNlLnBkZj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMTI3Ljg2MTc5MjAxIn0.XhbYRa_7IHg1SCmP85Fm4KaoMog4vEBZ2xvi3HnSUoE/s/1157949515/br/231589131815-l) In addition, there are useful guidance documents and advice on the [attendance page](http://leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk/school-information/parents-information/attendance/) of our website.

Thank you all for your support. Wrap up warm!

With best regards,



Rob Campbell