Mandeville Primary School

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13th November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

It's been a busy and enjoyable first two weeks back!

Diwali Celebrations: Children throughout the school have been learning about Diwali, the Festival of Lights, through a wonderful range of creative activities. From making colourful rangoli patterns and clay diyas to exploring the story of Rama and Sita through drama, music and dance, pupils have developed their understanding of the festival and its traditions. Older children have explored the symbolism of light and the different ways Hindu families celebrate Diwali. These activities form part of our whole-school Religious Festivals Programme, which brings together Religious Education and the Creative Arts to deepen children's understanding of different beliefs, cultures and traditions.

Anti-Bullying Week: Anti-Bullying Week takes place from Monday 16th to Friday 20th November, with this year's theme being 'Break the Silence'. Throughout the week, children across the school will take part in activities designed to help them recognise bullying, understand the importance of speaking out and contribute to a kind, safe and supportive school community where everyone belongs.

Parents/carers play a vital role in helping children understand and respond to bullying. The Anti-Bullying Alliance has produced a useful toolkit offering information, practical advice and guidance on talking to children about bullying and seeking support when needed. We encourage you to take a look: https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2026/parent-and-carer-pack

Winter Illness and School Attendance: As we approach the winter months, we would like to remind parents that children with mild cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or slight cough, can usually attend school if they are otherwise well and do not have a high temperature. Children with a high temperature should remain at home until their temperature has returned to normal and they feel well enough to attend, while those experiencing vomiting or diarrhoea must stay at home for 48 hours after their last episode. Please refer to the attached NHS guidance chart, 'Is my child too ill for school?', to help you decide when your child should attend. Regular attendance is important for children's learning, friendships and wellbeing.

Friends of Mandeville PTA: A huge thank you to all the parents/carers and staff who helped to organise and support yesterday's children's disco. The children had a wonderful time, and we are very grateful to everyone who helped make the event such a success.

Smartphone Free Childhood: A reminder that the Stortford Smartphone Free Childhood team will be showcasing child-friendly phones in Jackson Square on Sunday 15th November (10am–4pm, at the top of the escalators). As children gain more independence, child-friendly phones can provide a useful way to keep in contact without the need for a full smartphone. As many of these phones are only available online, this is a good opportunity to see them in person and explore the advantages and disadvantages before making any decisions. The attached poster provides further information.

Winter Holiday Clubs: Please see the attached flyer for details of winter holiday clubs taking place over the festive period.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We look forward to all that the coming weeks will bring.

Yours faithfully

Miss Kara Hales
Headteacher