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Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week, at around 5pm one night, there was an accident with one of our pupils on Thornaby Road that petrified both parents and school staff. One of our sensible pupils had a very near miss and actually was hit by a car, but luckily she was more shaken up rather than too physically injured, although she had some painful bruises. She returned to school the next day after being medically checked over. The driver involved was very sensible, caring and in no way to blame. In fact, he had slowed down after seeing the whites of the student's socks. After the incident, I went straight home and warned my own two sons just about the dangers of the road and the importance of using the proper crossings. Please could you just remind your children as well about the importance of road safety. This week in school, teachers have discussed this in class and reminded children about safe places to cross and wearing bright clothing. The welfare, safety and happiness of our children is crucially important to me and all school staff.

Parental Visits into School

Most classes across school have thoroughly enjoyed having parents and carers in class to take part in lessons. Year 1's session is coming very soon and a letter is coming! I was delighted to see the fantastic turnout for each session and I would like to thank you for coming into school. If you missed it, there will be other opportunities to visit school and see the fantastic work that the children do each day. We very much value parental engagement and support that you provide and we are very proud of being a community-centred school.

Assessment and Data

At the end of Early Years (Reception class); after the phonics test in Y1; after Y2 SATS and with Year 6 SATS, we have to report our results/data on our website for the government. This year, all of our results **were above national averages and expectations**, which staff were delighted about. As I mentioned before, reading results were in the **top 20% nationally**. Most pleasingly, each child in school made good progress against their own personal targets.

This year, as a whole school, we are working to increase the levels of control and sophistication with our writing as well as improving our explanations and mastery of Maths. So, with writing, the aim is for the children to select vocabulary or layouts with the deliberate aim of having an impact on the reader. For example, in Y6, a child might write a letter with well-chosen vocabulary, a formal tone and link paragraphs to create a cohesive letter. In Maths, we are aiming to support the children with explaining their workings out and thinking, which would



'Staff and Governors are committed to keeping children safe'.

elevate their grades/responses even further. For example, in Y4 a child might be asked to explain how they do column addition to another child to further deepen their understanding. These are all more sophisticated, higher order skills that the school is working towards generally. In class, children have their own targets and milestones to aim towards, and these are the most important ones because we are passionate about helping each child to get better every day.

Friends of Village

The Friends of Village are our school PTA. They organise so many excellent events from mini markets to discos. They are a lovely, thoughtful group of people who do so much for school and their hard work is very much appreciated. If you ever wanted to help out, speak to them or find out more, they have their own twitter and Facebook pages which are well worth looking at. Through their efforts alongside your support and kind donations, we raise money to pay for nice extras for our pupils. At the moment, we are counting the pennies and looking to renew our trim trail just next to the playground. These sorts of projects are not cheap and we are talking about multiple thousands in costs. But, hopefully, we will be able to develop this area soon and we are now seeking quotes.

Thank you for all your support. Your inputs and opinions are very much valued and listened to.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Birtwhistle', written in a cursive style.

R Birtwhistle.
Head Teacher.