

Dear Parents and Carers

I cannot quite believe we are already halfway through January, but I hope you had a lovely Christmas and New Year, despite how long ago that feels now! We have unfortunately started the year by saying 'Goodbye' to Mrs Read, who has resigned because of a change in her personal circumstances. Mrs Read has given lots of children excellent support in the few months that she has been with us and we will miss her. At present we will be covering Mrs Read's work with some of Mrs Turner's hours and some additional mornings for Mrs Davies.

I would like to thank everyone for your patience with us as we try to ensure Schoolmoney, the new payment system, is running smoothly for everyone. Karen and Anna are working very hard to help everyone who is having any issues and we hope they will be resolved as quickly as possible. We chose to move over to the Schoolmoney system in part because it gives you the flexibility to book your children into Breakfast and After School Care club at a time convenient to you and so that you know your child's place is secure as well as making all other payments necessary over the school year.

Last night lots of staff attended Makaton training in school. This is a sign language system used to aid communication and many of you may already be familiar with it from watching Mr Tumble with your children. We have a few children in school who need this support to help with their understanding and communication and we thought it would be a good idea to gradually introduce key signs across the school so that all of the children can learn to communicate in this way. While we won't be having specific lessons for this, we will start to introduce signs into our lessons and assemblies where we can. If you'd like further information about Makaton you can find some [here](#).

I have now published the results of the parent questionnaire on the school website and would like to thank everyone who completed it and for the very positive view you have given us of the school. You can find the results of the survey [here](#). If you have any further comments to make please contact me via the school office email [widewell.office@horizonmat.com](mailto:widewell.office@horizonmat.com) or come in and see me in person. I would always rather have a conversation with you if there is anything you feel we need to improve around the school.

Kind regards,

Claire Prynne