

Friday 15th December 2023

Dear parents/carers,

I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy holiday season: I hope the time spent with loved ones and friends provides lots of opportunities for the things that matter to us all, that is finding time to appreciate the people around us and enjoying the simple things in life.

However, the holiday season can sometimes be challenging, and some children or families may experience loneliness or difficulties. This means that at times pupils can spend too much time on social media, watching or receiving harmful content. I just want to remind parents to keep a close eye on their child's social media activity. We often deal with material sent between students that is not appropriate, so a check on their content always helps. There is a really helpful guide for parents on young minds that is useful to support you. This can be found at

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/social-media/>

If you are ever concerned, please contact school as early as possible via the usual communication channels of e-mailing enquiries@danum.outwood.com or calling the school or contacting their learning manager. Our children support each other by reporting concerns to staff, and I ask that you continue to encourage your child to speak to school should they have an issue.

As we approach the holiday season, staff are not available to answer concerns as promptly. If you have any concerns at all about your child's health or well being and you believe they may be in crisis, you should take your child to A&E and see the crisis team. If your child is not in crisis, but is suffering with low mood, you can see your GP for support, or use some of the excellent free advice online, such as 'With me in Mind' or 'Kooth' which is a site where your child can access support. You can also access some great advice through our Outwood well-being site, found on <https://www.danum.outwood.com/mental-wellbeing>.

This year has seen many opportunities to make us proud as a school community, and no doubt you will have seen all the wonderful things our children have got up to in the Autumn term on our social media, or through the praise points collated on the parent portal. To name a few wonderful events, we have seen over 100 pupils enjoy the medicine museum in Nottingham; we currently have over 40 pupils away in France representing the academy and families very well; we have had a number of sporting events where our pupils have officiated

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

and we have had some great charity events like the Macmillan coffee morning, along with our hampers that children have taken to local homes and food banks. Every day, our pupils provide lots of reasons for joy.

Finally, I wanted to thank you all for your support as we have dealt with this staffing shortage. No doubt, without your support and that of our pupils, we may have had to have had more pupils home learning. As a team, we are grateful for the parent and school relationship that is so important in ensuring our pupils leave us as the very best version of themselves. Take care, and look after yourselves this season.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mandy Crane', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mandy Crane
Principal