



Akrotiri School

Friday Feeling

#015

Friday 12 January

In a blustery and much colder week back at school, we have been warmed by the focus of active community engagement. During the assembly on Monday, we explored what it meant to be an active member of the school community versus passive engagement. The house captains will start to look more closely at this, with Mr Ball, over the coming weeks and have a chance to promote positive activity in future assemblies. I look forward to the outcomes.

Children have settled back into the new term tremendously and seem to have grown considerably over the Christmas period; including growing into what it is to be a great example of their respective year groups. Super learning behaviours and investment in the learning process should make for a very fruitful term ahead.

It was great to see parents in school again this week for the spelling workshop in Y2 and the DARE briefing for Y5. Thank you to all who contributed, we look forward to the next steps.

I include the following for your awareness: Although we have not had any reported cases in our school, there have been reports elsewhere. A current TikTok trend 'the Choking Challenge', sometimes referred to as 'the Blackout Challenge' or 'Choking Game' has attracted media attention due to the obvious dangers and devastating outcomes associated with such an act. In participating in the Choking Challenge one person squeezes the neck of another with their hands or a bent arm.

As a school, we will continue to be vigilant in raising children's awareness of the risks of dangerous play or games and looking for the signs of participation. We are keen to make you aware so that you too can be vigilant to any interest by our children in the Choking Challenge and what they are viewing online. Although limited research has been conducted, some of the signs to look for include:

- Blood shot eyes
- Headaches
- Bruises on the neck
- Disorientation after spending time alone and/or with peers

I hope that by working together we can continue to keep our children safe.



Have a wonderful weekend,

Ben Turner
Headteacher