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25 February 2022

Russians in the Ukraine and the Freedom Convoy rolls on.

You could be forgiven for feeling blue today. The news about our petrol price and the continued complexity of international relations is not comforting. It would be all too easy to allow yourself to get pulled along with the tide.

The realities of life cannot be denied, but my encouragement for you today is to hunt even harder for the positive, good and beautiful that does surround us all on a daily basis. Make an extra effort to smile at someone; take the time to notice and compliment people around you. These small efforts make a huge difference in the lives of the recipients and you just never know what you could spark with kind positivity.

Lingering for a moment on the topic of undeserved kindnesses, please don't forget to consider our table of sharing for a small food donation of dry or tinned goods this month. We are very grateful to be able to support Alex families in this way.

If you have found your email about the information update recently, you will notice that it has been disabled by now. We will be sending out a fresh batch of requests to check and update your information today, to those who have not responded. Please hunt down the new email before it expires. We really need to be confident about our data. If we need to contact you in an emergency and your contact details have changed, it could be quite frustrating for both of us. Your support of this project is very much appreciated.

Please remind your children that the next two Tuesdays are starting at the normal time of 07H45. Next week is test week: we will write a standardised test every day, including Tuesday. The following week (8 March) is our annual academic awards assembly from 07H55. If you would like to watch the assembly, please join us via the YouTube live stream on the link: <https://youtu.be/NZvTkTCqf44>

The list of academic award winners is here: <https://bit.ly/3t4XHzi>

On the topic of test week, please remember that if your child is ill during test week, you will need a medical note to excuse them and allow us to calculate a mark. The note could be from a clinic or a doctor or a pharmacist, but it is important that we get it.

Please also call or email the school to inform us in the morning. The test week will start on Monday 28 Feb and the last day is Monday 7 March. These are not exams; they are class tests, so we will not allow anyone to miss activities or matches in order to learn. It is quite probable that they could have a second test on the same day, as is allowed in our protocol.

We have had some rather unfortunate behaviour from Alex parents or guardians in the road outside the school this week. Following my appeal last week, not to make a U-turn in front of the school, some people still thought it wise and this led to a rather unpleasant verbal altercation. Please, let us work together to avoid such scenes. Nobody wants to start their day like this. If we all just slow down and make allowances for each other then we can come away from the congestion with our dignity and our tempers intact.

We are excited to announce a partnership with the Rink Street branch of Standard Bank. They are sending some of their officers to school from 8 to 10 March. Any pupil who needs an ID or a passport will be able to see them, with their original birth certificate and a copy of one parent's ID. The official will book an appointment at the branch for the biometric scan and submission of the application. Standard Bank only offer this service to their clients so, if your child does not already have a Standard Bank account, the official will open an account for them, and they will need to deposit R20.

If you would like to get a head start on the process yourself, you can go to:
<https://ehome.dha.gov.za/ehomeaffairsv3>

You may find the site a bit of a challenge, as it seems to have a few quirks that may drive you scatty but if you are determined and self-reliant, you will succeed.

Please keep yourself and those you love, safe this week

Fond Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Ridgway', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Ridgway
Principal