Dear RBA Families,

It has been a brisk but dry return to school after the half-term break, and our students have come back in fine spirits, refreshed and ready for a busy and exciting half-term ahead.

I want to start this week's update with a huge, heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the Abrahams and Miller charity collection for Hope Works. Over the half-term break, Miss K delivered all of your incredibly generous donations to the charity. The final tally was simply staggering:

- **54** scarves
- **94** hats and earmuffs
- **90** pairs of gloves
- **86** pairs of women's underwear
- **28** pairs of men's underwear
- **A large box** of period products
- **30** large bars of chocolate
- **7** boxes of chocolate
- **408** individual chocolate bars

The staff at Hope Works shared that this is the BIGGEST single donation they have ever received! They passed on their sincere gratitude and wanted our community to know that these items will make a profound difference to so many homeless individuals, as well as women who have had to flee their homes due to domestic abuse. Thank you for demonstrating our value of Community so powerfully.

We continue the charitable fundraising next week on Friday the 13th of November for Children in Need. To raise money for this worthy cause we invite students to wear non-uniform for a voluntary donation of £1. Please be reminded that students should come to school dressed appropriately for the day (especially their footwear, e.g. no Crocs). In addition, a limited number of Pudsey cookies will also be on sale for £1 during morning break.

Looking further ahead, preparations are officially under way for our annual RBA Winter Fair on Saturday 28th November, where we will once again be running two dedicated House stalls to raise money for our House charities (Hope Works for Abrahams & Miller, and CHUMS for Norton & Turing). To make these stalls a resounding success, we are asking for donations from our families. Any student who donates will be awarded Community VOICE points!

Here is how you can help:

- **Abrahams & Miller (Christmas Hamper Tombola):** We are asking for donations of individual items (e.g., chocolates, unopened bottles, socks, stationery, candles) that we can combine into hampers, **OR** complete, pre-made Christmas hampers (students will receive extra VOICE points for bringing in full hampers!).

- **Norton & Turing (Jingle Jars & Bottles Tombola):** We are asking for donations of jars filled with sweets or chocolates, **OR** unopened bottles of any kind (e.g., shower gel, bubble bath, soft drinks, or alcoholic beverages).

Please ensure all donations are clearly labelled with your child's name and form, and either brought to Main Reception or handed directly to Miss K / Mrs Moreno (Abrahams & Miller) or Mr Bracey / Miss Bailey (Norton & Turing). Without a name, we will not be able to award your child their VOICE points! Thank you in advance for your generosity.

On Sunday, I am greatly looking forward to representing RBA alongside a select group of student volunteers at the Shefford Remembrance Service. On Wednesday, we will also observe Armistice Day in school through a joint service with several local schools. It is fundamentally important that we continue to recognize the service and sacrifice of all those who have served and continue to serve for the good of us all.

Something that may be of interest to you is the fact that we have updated two key areas of our school website:

- **School Calendar & Dates:** You can visit our Term Dates and Calendar Page to view top-level dates, as well as access a comprehensive detailed calendar of school events.
- **Revamped Curriculum Area:** Our Curriculum Statements Page now features the 'I Can Statements' for each subject. These outline the key learning steps students use to track their own progress, making them a fantastic resource for parents who wish to see what their children are learning or supplement their studies at home.

Looking ahead to next week, our Year 6 students will be sitting their first set of SATs practice papers under formal exam conditions. This will give them a clear taste of what the summer examinations will feel like, while providing our teaching team with vital diagnostic information to tailor learning going forward. If you are a Year 6 parent or carer, please have a chat with your child this weekend and remind them simply to try their best—that is all we ever ask!

Lastly, next week also features a very important evening for the school in our Year 4 Open Evening, and I am delighted to share that all three of my Principal presentations are now completely sold out. Showcasing RBA on these evenings is always a point of immense pride for our staff and students, and I look forward to meeting both current families and new faces joining our community.

I hope you all have a wonderful, restful weekend.

John Linehan

Principal