

Thursday 1st March 2017

Dear Parents / Guardians,

March Newsletter...

Parents' Evening

Parent's Evening will be held over 2 days on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th March 2017. Available times will be posted in the school reception area over the next few days. Please make every effort to attend, as teachers will be advising parents on how children are performing against national expectations and possible steps for improvement. We would also appreciate if any parents yet to complete the online questionnaire on the school app could do so please. We really appreciate your feedback and have felt very proud of your responses so far. Thank you very much.

Residential Trips

As a school we place a huge value on the benefit of school residential trips in developing the whole child – confidence, interaction with others, independence etc. 3 separate trips have been arranged this year: Barcelona and Mount Cook (Derbyshire) for years 5 and 6 and Crosby Hall for years 2 and 3. As ever, the school contributes up to 50% of the costs of these trips which hopefully makes them affordable for most families. If any parents do not wish their child to attend Mount Cook or Crosby Hall due to financial considerations, please arrange an appointment with me to see if we can help. More information will be sent out in due course regarding each trip.

World Book Day

The school will be celebrating World Book Day tomorrow – 2nd March. Previous information has been sent home about children attending school dressed as a character from a book or in pyjamas. We would greatly appreciate if children could bring in an item of chocolate. This will be used to create 'chocolate hampers' which will be used to as prizes for a family bingo night later this term. Additionally, Red Nose Day is on 24th March and 'Red Noses' are now available to buy for £1 from the school office.

Attendance & Punctuality

Since we have introduced our new digital signing in system we have been able to track attendance and punctuality very closely. Unfortunately, this has highlighted some worrying trends. These include some children attending school late on a regular basis and other children being picked up early before the end of the school day on several occasions. This has a hugely detrimental effect on children's academic performance – and there is a definite correlation appearing with school data showing children with poor attendance and punctuality often falling below their age expectations in their studies. I will be sending punctuality letters out this week and attendance letters next week.

These letters are simply to inform parents of their child's current attendance and punctuality rate; and hopefully preventing the next step of outside agencies becoming involved – Education Welfare Officers. Every day between 9am and 9:30am all classes complete Basic English and Maths skills sessions. Therefore, it is clear to see if children are consistently late they are going to fall behind in their studies – and also distract the other children in the class who are already at work when others arrive. I would really appreciate your support in helping us overcome this problem.

Basic Skills

To reiterate, Basic Skills (Including times tables and spellings) are so important to children's academic development. Please help us to help our children by spending a short time each night practising reading, tables and spellings.

Website

I am pleased to say our brand new website is now live and we think it looks brilliant. It is the same address as previous and hopefully you will find all the information you need about our school in one place; finding it easy to navigate your way around the site. As ever, we would really appreciate your interaction on class blogs and Twitter feeds. Your comments on what the children do in school are very much appreciated. I would like to thank Miss. Keogh, Mrs. Hart-Davies and Mr. Lancaster for all their hard work in designing and populating the site.

Curriculum

Over the last 18 months we have worked really hard in devising a new bespoke curriculum which allows our children to learn about our city, country and the wider world. The class Twitter feeds will show the exciting work taking place. However, on a few isolated occasions parents have requested children to be removed from swimming and music lessons on religious grounds. We have a statutory duty to ensure these subjects are taught. The school will always take an empathetic view to religious and cultural sensitivities but all children must be taught a full curriculum. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Sasha

Our school therapy dog Sasha has settled in very well to school. She is currently 3 months into her training and doing an excellent job. She attends school for one half day a week and by September will hopefully be working with groups of children 2 or 3 days a week. The children are so excited by her and she is already most children's favourite member of staff!

Thank you all for your continued support,

Yours,

Mr. N. Verdin (Headteacher)

