



Stimpson Avenue Academy
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Head of School: Kim Kemp

5 December 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Christmas festivities and fun have certainly started at Stimpson Avenue Academy! This truly is a magical time of year in schools with the buzz of excitement and anticipation of the children emanating around the school. The elves have already visited Reception and Nursery much to the joy of the children. Hold onto your seats because there is so much more to fit in before the end of term!

Deck the Halls

What a lovely event this is – I really am convinced that the parents/carers enjoy this as much if not more than the children. The glitter, tinsel and sparkle certainly brightened up the school (although I am not sure the cleaners were so convinced about this!). So many fun activities happened with Year 5 making snow globes and Christmas stockings, Year 4 Christmas decorations, Year 3 snowflakes, paper chains and sewing Christmas decorations, Year 2 Christmas baubles, Year 1 Christmas decorations and finally Reception and Nursery making a variety of Christmas decorations including a massive collective picture of Father Christmas made by the Nursery children. It was great fun and thank you to so many of you who came to share the celebrations. More than 80 parents and carers came which is a great turn out. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did – it certainly looked like everyone had great fun and everyone left sparkling!



Lantern Parade

On Sunday several of our pupils took part in Northampton's first Lumiere Parade along with several community groups. Although it was chilly, we had a wonderful time. The shoe lanterns made by Year 6 looked fantastic as darkness fell. Our children behaved impeccably and this was commented on by the organisers. Mrs Kenny would like to thank all the children and their families for coming along and making it a great success.

Ruby: 'Although it was very cold, it was a lot of fun!'

Tobias: 'It was really fun – I loved it. I think it was one of my favourite moments of 2016'

Armaan: 'I really enjoyed it because we got to go round and sing 3 times! 3 times! It was amazing and a good experience.'

Amy: 'It was amazing. All of the costumes were magnificent and it was the best thing the school has done all year.'

Mazie: 'The lantern parade was amazing and the singing as well. The costumes were very good and it was unforgettable and also very cold.'

Megan: 'I really enjoyed it even though it was cold. The costumes and props were amazing too!'

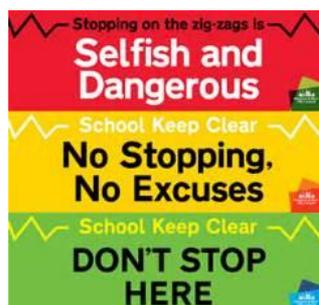


Parents' Evenings

A couple of weeks ago we held Parents' Evenings and the feedback I received was really positive. I hope you enjoyed discussing how your child is getting on in school both socially and educationally. Please remember parents' evenings are the formal events to discuss your child but you are more than welcome to discuss any concerns or additional information you would like at any time throughout the academic year.

Car Parking

Sadly, once again there have been complaints both from other parents and also local residents about car parking. Please may I remind all parents and carers collecting their children from school to ensure they are always parking in permitted areas and to always show respect for the local community. The links we have with our community are very important and it is therefore vital that we do not park in private car parks or on restricted areas, including yellow lines. This is also for the **safety** of us all. It only takes a few parents out of 460 to give us all a negative reputation and put the safety of our children at risk. I have contacted the council and requested they send a traffic warden to help ensure we all follow the parking guidelines which exist for our safety and convenience.



Year 4 trip to The Botanical Gardens

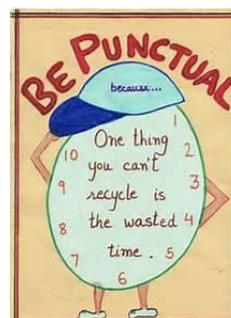
In my last newsletter I mentioned how wonderful the children were and how the staff who accompanied them stated they were a joy to be with. I am delighted to inform you that The Botanical Gardens have sent us a letter complimenting the children on their behaviour. I have included a copy below for you to read. Well done year 4 – we are all very proud of you!



Attendance and Punctuality

I am really pleased to inform you that our attendance figure is continuing to rise slightly and is now 96.77% which is above national. It would be brilliant to keep this rising and achieve our target of 97%. Thank you for ensuring your children attend school and valuing their education.

At this time of year, I am already receiving many requests from parents to take their children out of school. Please can I remind you that holiday is not permitted during school time and this will be unauthorised. This is in line with government guidelines and school policy. I strongly urge you to please ensure your child remains in school until the last day of term on Tuesday 20th December. English and Maths lessons are continuing every day and learning is still taking place in addition to the rehearsals and productions.



Punctuality continues to be a target to improve and I am sad to inform you that more recently this is increasing and last week alone there were 20 lates. I am sure you will agree this is very high and disappointing. Thank you to the vast majority of you who ensure you get your children into school on time. It really is VERY IMPORTANT that EVERY child arrives **promptly** in school; it is so important that they do not miss valuable learning times and additionally, interrupt the learning of others when they arrive late. English and Maths lessons commence promptly at 9.00 am so it is imperative that all children are in registration by 8.55 am at the very latest. A reminder that the school doors open at **8.45 am** and the gates will close by **8.55 am**. A punctuality slip will be given to the parent/carer each time a child is late unless it is due to a medical reason. Parents/Carers of those children who are persistently late will be contacted directly by the school office and a letter will be sent home. If this continues, you be required to meet with our Attendance Officer to discuss the punctuality of your child or children. If you are having difficulties getting your child into school on time, please do contact the school and we will endeavour to do all we can to support you to ensure your child can arrive on time.

Thank you for your continued support on such an important matter.

Sad Goodbyes

It is with sadness that I am writing to inform you that a much respected and valued member of the Stimpson Avenue Academy leadership team, Madeleine Adams, will be leaving us at the end of this term. She is an outstanding professional and we wish her every success in her new venture. Madeleine Adams has been at Stimpson Avenue Academy since April 2015 and has made a massive positive impact on improving standards within Early Years at this school. She will be greatly missed by staff, parents/carers and of course the children.

I am pleased to inform you that Niki Appleton, who as you are aware, already class shares with Mrs Adams, will be working full time in this Reception class. Additionally, Mia Lewis, currently Assistant Principal and lead for Key Stage 1, will also be the Early Years and Foundation Stage leader.

Sadly, Liz Jones, a highly valued Year 1 class teacher, is also leaving us at the end of the term. She has worked with us since January 2016. We know she will be sorely missed but we wish her all the best and huge success in the next step of her career.

We have employed Avril Gough who has been teaching for over 10 years and is very excited to be joining the Stimpson Avenue Academy team. She will be starting straight after the Christmas holidays. I am sure you will warmly welcome Miss Gough as a new class teacher.

Teaching your child to be safe on line

E-safety

I am sure that we all agree that in today's modern world we must continue to work hard to ensure we keep our children safe when using technology. At Stimpson Avenue Academy, we continue to take the responsibility of promoting E-Safety very seriously. If you ever have any concerns with regards to pupil's use of technology, including text messages, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

To help with keeping our children safe, I have been recommended some 'Child Friendly Search Engines'. Search engines can be half the problem with using the Internet and result in exposing children to 'accidental' information we would otherwise choose our children not be exposed to. The following search engines are completely safe for your children and do not bring up inappropriate pages. You can also set them as your home page! These are:

- Kidrex.org
- Safesearchkids.com
- Wisekids.org.uk
- Swiggle.org.uk
- Gogooligans.com
- Searchypants.com



I am sure we all agree, together, we need to protect our children and promote their safety whilst enjoying all the wonderful things modern technology can bring when used wisely.



Safeguarding

On a serious note, as no one would question, the safety of our children is paramount. I would really appreciate it if you could remind your children about stranger danger; especially remind older children who walk to school about the importance of walking with others and not talking to strangers. If you or your child has any concerns, please always share them with us.

Please know that if your child walks alone or with other children, they may be at an increased risk. I would strongly recommend that children in Year 4 or younger are escorted into school and if they are in Years 5 and 6, they walk with other children.

If your child is to be allowed to walk home alone after school, you must provide us with written permission. Additionally, it is now getting dark much earlier and it will be dark when the after school clubs finish. I therefore strongly recommend no children walk home after clubs without an adult.



Thank you for your support in such a crucial matter.

Looking forward to the rest of the term

A reminder of the final events of term is below and I am sure you will agree it is going to be incredibly busy yet fun. I personally am particularly looking forward to all the performances and witnessing the talents of your amazing children.

	EVENT	DATE			
TERM 2	Nativity – Nursery, Reception and Year 1	Thursday	08.12.2016	2.15 pm	
		Friday	09.12.2016	10.30 am	
	Helping Hands Christmas Fair	Saturday	10.12.2016	1.00 pm-3.00pm	
	Pantomime for Whole School (in school)	Monday	12.12.2016		
	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day	Wednesday	14.12.2016		
	Years 2, 3 and 4 Christmas Performances	<u>Thursday</u> Mrs Mills Class Miss Whitwood’s Class Miss Scott’s Class		15.12.2016	9.30 am
		<u>Friday</u> Miss Edwards’ Class Miss Lawther’s Class Miss Felton’s Class		16.12.2016	9.30 am
	Years 5 & 6 Carol Concert	Monday	19.12.2016	9.30 am	
	Christmas Party Day	Monday	19.12.2016		

I look forward to seeing you more over the next couple of weeks to share the celebrations.

Warm wishes,

Kimberley Kemp
Head of School

Key Reminders and Key Dates

Open Door Policy

I strongly believe in close partnership with parents and carers and the importance of this to ensure every child achieves the best they can in all areas of school life. I would therefore like to remind you that if you have any concerns please do always come in and discuss them with staff. If you would like to speak to any member of staff or myself, and you cannot get hold of us directly, please call the school office. You can also email me on head@stimpsonave.northants-ecl.gov.uk.

If your child is ever worried or unhappy, no matter how trivial it may seem, please always contact the school so we can work together to resolve this. After all, a happy child is a learning child and their safety and happiness has got to be the priority.

Improving Communication

Gone are the days of finding a screwed up letter at the bottom of your child's book bag! Communication really is important and as the majority of us are aware, depending upon our children to bring home letters is often not very reliable or successful. This, very understandably, leads to frustrations and inconvenience. I would therefore like to use emailing and texting as the key ways of communicating with you. It ensures you receive everything and equally saves time, money and the trees!

If you have not already done so, please make sure you share your email address with us to ensure you receive all correspondence from the school. We are aiming to send all information out electronically so it would be a huge benefit to you to sign up. Just email admin@stimpsonavenue.northants.sch.uk with your child's name, class and your preferred email address so that you don't miss out!

If you do not have an email address, then please do not worry, we will, of course, in this instance still send home paper copies of letters.

Safeguarding our children. It's everyone's business...

Safeguarding the welfare of children is paramount at our school. A poster, detailing who is responsible for safeguarding is published extensively around school, on our safeguarding board and on the website. Please see one of the members of staff listed below in the strictest of confidence if you have concerns about a child. Alternatively you can call the MASH team at the local authority on 0300 126 1000.

The designated safeguarding officers at the school are:

Kimberley Kemp (Head of school and Safeguarding Lead)
Tina Berlingieri (Family Support Worker and Deputy Safeguarding Lead)
Mia Lewis (Assistant Principal)
Amanda Baker (Assistant Principal)
Abi Scott (SLT)



Duncan Mills is the representative from the EMLC Trust. You also call directly to the MASH team with any concerns including those involving children within the local community. I hope this helps to clarify who to contact and what you can do if you have any concerns about the safety of your own or another child.

Term Dates

Please can I remind you that as we are an Academy on some occasions our term dates differ from those of Northamptonshire County Council. Therefore, looking on Northamptonshire County Council's website will sometimes not provide you with the actual term dates of Stimpson Avenue Academy. Our term dates are on our website and they are as follows:

2016 – Term starts	2016 – Term ends
Monday 5 th September	Friday 21 st October
Tuesday 1 st November	Tuesday 20 th December

2017 – Term starts	2017 – Term ends
Thursday 5 th January	Friday 10 th February
Monday 20 th February	Friday 31 st March
Wednesday 19 th April	Friday 26 th May
Monday 5 th June	Friday 21 st July

Please Note that Teacher Training Days may change

Teacher Training Days 2017
Children not in School
Wednesday 4 th January
Tuesday 18 th April