



Principal Informer

Issue 19: Tuesday, 8 September 2015

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Welcome back! It is great to see all of the children safely back in school looking smart and enthusiastic at the start of the new school year.

We have firm foundations to build upon as a result of our academic success last year. It is no secret that the last academic year presented some significant staffing problems. I am very pleased, confident and assured that the new staff and structures at Stimpson Avenue will ensure that the school makes rapid and sustained progress and that ultimately the children will continue to enjoy coming to school and will be supported to reach their greatest potential in all aspects of school life.

As you are aware, we now have a middle leadership structure to ensure that children and teachers are supported. Leading Foundation Stage is Mrs Adams, Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) is Miss Lewis (Assistant Principal), in lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) is Miss Scott (until Mrs Baker returns on a permanent basis). Finally, upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6) is being led by Mrs Moore (Seconded Assistant Principal).

School is certainly buzzing as new teachers get to know their new children. We would like to invite you into school to meet your child's class teacher informally on 30 September 2015. The classrooms and school have become a really inviting place to learn and inspire and we look forward to you having the opportunity to have a look round.

The staggered entry works really well in the mornings, ensuring a calm start to the day. Teachers or teaching assistants will be at the door in the morning to greet your child (however, in KS2 it will be mostly teaching assistants). We are eager to ensure effective communication and your child's class teacher will be delighted to meet with you at the end of the school day if you have a comment to make. We will soon be publishing Phase Leader contact emails if you wish to speak to them directly. If you wish to make an appointment to see me, please contact Marie Wallace on pa@stimpsonavepri.co.uk.

We will also be developing our school website and our mission before Christmas is to get all communication to be electronic either through ParentPay or the website. This will be far more time and cost effective. Later this week we will be issuing the RED SHEET that will detail all dates for the year, so that you can plan ahead.

At the heart of all that we do is our passion for the curriculum and ensuring that your child is enthusiastic about their learning and loves coming to school. We have lots of vibrant and exciting topics for learning that will broaden and deepen the children's understanding of key concepts. In the next couple of weeks we will be publishing the theme titles for all of your child's learning over the year and when educational visits will take place. We can't wait for Year 6 to visit the House of Commons at the invitation of Michael Ellis MP and then on to the BBC in the afternoon. Details to follow...

Nationally the way that schools are assessing children has changed and so we will no longer be talking in levels. Details of this will also follow later this term.

Throughout the year we will be placing greater importance on the voice of the child with the introduction of Prefects led by the newly elected Head Boy and Girl. The Head Boy and Girl will welcome OFSTED which we expect some time this term.

As you are aware, it is with a very heavy heart that I have decided to resign from Stimpson Avenue Academy. This was an incredibly difficult decision for me to make as the school is amazing and is shaping up to be brilliant. Please be assured that I will be working tenaciously for the best of everything for the children until my departure at the end of December.

Kind regards,

Darren

Uniform Expectations

The children look brilliant in their new uniforms. Thank you for all of the effort and investment that you have made. We will now make every effort to maintain this high standard. We expect all children to wear the uniform. The uniform comprises of the navy v-neck jumper **with logo and tie** (the tie is not expected in Nursery or Reception). Children are expected to wear black shoes/sandals that securely cover toes. **Trainers are not permitted.** Please also note that children are not permitted to wear nail varnish or hoop or novelty earrings. Children are also expected to independently remove earrings for PE. On health and safety grounds the children are not allowed to tape earrings for PE. As previously explained, we would expect a parent to supervise their child if they were unable to remove their earrings. Full details of the uniform expectations can be found on our website.

Learning Log meeting for Parents/Carers of children in Years 5&6

We would like to invite parents with children in Years 5&6 to attend a meeting on **17 September at 3.15 pm** in the school hall for the launch of 'Learning Logs.' Learning Logs are a key part of the homework expectations in Years 5&6 and it is important for parents to understand how they can support their child at home with them. We are very excited about launching Learning Logs at Stimpson Avenue and we look forward to the meeting.

France residential meeting for parents in Year 5 – 29 September at 3.15 pm in the school hall.

We are planning to take the children in Year 5 on a 5 day residential to France next October, when the children are in Year 6. This is a very exciting opportunity for the children to take part in and we are hoping that all children in the year group will go. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

If you have a safeguarding concern then please inform, without delay, Mr Smith (Principal, Designated Senior Person) or in his absence Miss Berlingieri.

Home/School Partnership Books

You will have received your child's H/S Partnership Books in their book bag. The idea is that this book is used to communicate general issues to school in an efficient way. The books will be checked daily in Reception/Key Stage 1 and weekly in Key Stage 2. It is expected that children will read at least 3 times a week. When you have read with your child please record that you have done so in the book and sign it. Your child's class teacher will sign the book at the end of each week. Next week we will attach to the H/S Partnership book the homework expectations for each year group.

Collecting your child at the end of the school day

We need to ensure that all children are collected by a responsible, known adult. As many staff are new, handing over the children is taking a little longer at present. Also, one afternoon per week, teachers are statutorily allowed non contact time to plan, prepare and assess children's work (PPA.) On this occasion the class will be covered by a combination of Higher Level Teaching Assistants known to the children and a sports coach, either Steve or Dan. On this occasion either the HLTA or sports coach will see the children out.

PPA time is as follows: Nursery/Reception–Monday, Years 5&6–Tuesday, Years 1&2–Thursday, Years 3&4–Friday.

Celebration Assembly – Friday morning 9.00 am

We are looking forward to celebrating all that the children do in school. Each week the class teacher will nominate a child from their class to receive the 'Principal's Award for Excellence.' Children will be awarded this accolade if they have excelled in their work and/or in their attitude to their work and behaviour. If your child is to receive this award, parents and carers will receive a letter the week before informing them and inviting them to join the assembly. In addition to house points that achieve a group reward, we will be introducing credits for children to collect which will enable them to achieve individual rewards. We want to encourage and motivate all children for all their commitment and hard work. Details to follow.

REMINDER FOR YEAR 6 PARENTS—SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENINGS

The Kingsthorpe College Year 6 Open Evening will be held on Thursday, 10 September 2015 at 6.00 pm.

Leave during term time – IMPORTANT

Parents/Carers are politely advised that leave of absence requests during term time will not be authorised. Unauthorised attendance may result in a penalty notice of £60 per child, per parent if a child has unauthorised leave. Children must be in school at all times if they are to reach their potential. Last year overall attendance at our school was 96.3% which is incredible and this must be sustained. It is also not expected that a child will be taken out of school for routine medical, dental appointments etc. This too will be classed as unauthorised leave.