



# Principal Informer

Issue 11: Friday, 6 February 2015

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Dear Parents/Carers

It is hard to believe that we are at the half way point of the school year. At the Parent Forum last week, parents suggested that we should summarise what has been achieved to date and what our next steps will be. We have certainly had our challenges, but our successes thus far are accelerating the pace of improvement. I will send out a separate letter at the start of next term summarising our successes to date, next steps and things to look forward to.



On Thursday the Year 5 & 6 boys dance group 'Ignition' performed at the Kettering and District festival of dance at the Masque Theatre in Kettering. This was their first performance which was choreographed by our dancer in residence, Katy Watts. The boys performed brilliantly alongside established dance groups from other schools and organisations. We have had confirmation this week that they have been given a slot to perform at the Derrigate Arts Festival in the summer alongside other schools. This is a prestigious event and will put Stimpson on the map. Our girls dance group will be commencing soon!

We look forward to seeing parents and carers at the Evening of Musical Entertainment on Thursday evening starting at 6.30 pm in the school hall. This will give the school band a chance to perform all that they have been rehearsing. We will also be saying a big thank you to Mrs Taylor for all her hard work over many years with the school band.

*Darren*

## LAUNCH OF THE SCHOOL WEBSITE/TEXT ALERT AND ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

This week will see the launch of the new school website. **It is intended that the website will be the first point of reference for parents to access information about all aspects of school life.** The home page will have a calendar of events (previously issued to parents on the red sheet at the start of the year). You will also be able to view past editions of Principal Informers. Key school policies will be available for reference and every class will have their own page with information previously sent in paper copy. The website will celebrate all that the school does. Over time we will add more to the website including class blogs etc. Next week will also see the activation of the text alert system to parents as well as an online booking system for school dinners. Again, this will aid efficiency for both school and home. We hope that parents will choose to pay for school activities online as we move forward. It is imperative that parents keep the school informed about changes to mobile numbers and email addresses.

Menus for selecting school meals are now available on ParentPay for orders from 23 February 2015 onwards. Please ensure you select your menu first, before moving to the checkout so that if your child is entitled to Universal Free School Meals (Years R, 1 and 2) or Free School Meals, then your meal selection will not be chargeable. You must ensure you have selected a meal choice before paying or Cygnet will be unable to process your order.

### INTRODUCING STAY & SHARE...

We are pleased to launch Stay & Share for parents of children in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1. Stay & Share will take place every Thursday morning starting on Thursday, 26 February from 8.50 am to 9.10 am. This will be an opportunity for you to read with your child and enjoy having an opportunity to spend time with them in the classroom. Details to follow.

### LIFE EDUCATION CENTRE

When we return after the holiday we will be welcoming the Life Education mobile classroom to school. This service is well known to schools in the county. All children from Reception upwards will have a session in the classroom talking about healthy lifestyles and making good choices. There is a session for parents on Wednesday, 25 February 9.00-9.30 am, via the school office.

## Attendance

School attendance target for 2014/15:

96%

School attendance to date:

96.2%

Number of days lost to unauthorised leave to date:

335

Number of children recorded late to date

1229