



Stimpson Avenue Academy
Stimpson Avenue Northampton NN1 4LR
Telephone: 01604 631383
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Executive Head: Sarah Bennett
Head of School: Kim Kemp

12 February 2016

Dear Parent / Carer,

I cannot believe that we are now drawing to the end of another half term. I hope your child has enjoyed this first half of the Spring Term although I am sure we are all in agreement that we are looking forward to lighter mornings and evenings! I continue to be so proud of all our incredible children and as always their smiles lighten up my days. Everything we do has children at the centre and this continues to be my passion. Teaching and learning has to always remain a key focus for all of us although ensuring every pupil is happy, safe and enjoying school is paramount. Parents / Carers are so important in helping us to ensure this and please always come and share any concerns, however small, for us to all work together to resolve.

Home School Learning Links

I am really pleased with the increasing involvement and links we have with our parents/ carers to support the children with their learning at home and the positive impact is definitely being noticed in school.

The number of children receiving times table certificates is incredible and a sure sign of the extra practice they are doing at home. A tribute to this commitment, is our amazing achievement in the Times Table Rock Stars competition where Stimpson achieved fourth place in the school leaderboard out of nearly 500 schools. An amazing achievement so thank you to all the children and parents/ carers who made this possible. It was fantastic to see such excitement and enthusiasm to do extra maths! I am also pleased to hear of the effort the children are making with learning their spellings and completing their homework. We really value the support you are providing at home. Thank you.

World Book Day

This year we will be celebrating **World Book Day in school on the 3rd March**. On this day, we invite the children to come dressed as a character from any of the books by Julia Donaldson, David Walliams, Roald Dahl, Michael Morpurgo or JK Rowling. We will also be dropping everything and reading! Everyone in school will be reading at the same time and we hope to continue this event on a regular basis throughout the rest of the school year. With this in mind, your child is welcome to bring in their favourite book from home to read although please can you ensure it is clearly named. Additionally, look out for a flyer from Year 5 promoting 'Extreme Readers' soon!

Helping Hands will be hosting a second hand book sale also on **Thursday 3rd March**, in the main playground **after school** and they would welcome any book donations for their sale. Proceeds from their sale will go towards updating our library stock for your children to benefit from. We will also be distributing World Book Day vouchers at the end of February and this is a great opportunity to add to your collection of books at home!

Outdoor Environment

I am so pleased that the adventure playground is fixed and it is great to see it being used for what it was meant for; children playing and having fun!

It is with great appreciation that I can announce that Helping Hands have very kindly donated some money for us to improve the outside environment for both the main playground and the outside nursery area. The key aim is to improve these areas aesthetically but also make them much more exciting and fun for all the children. Outdoor equipment and games to enhance the children's playtimes and lunch times are also being purchased. Many of the ideas have come from Helping Hands and all the children via our Student Council. I would like to say a very big thank you to Helping Hands and all the hardworking parents who have worked tirelessly to raise this money for all our children to benefit from.

Site Manager

It is with sadness, I am writing to tell you that Glen McClelland, our site manager, has decided to leave for new ventures. Although he has only been with us a short while, I know many of you have got to know him and will miss his positivity and his smiles. We will all certainly miss him and wish him the very best.

However, it is with pleasure that I can inform you that we have successfully appointed a new site manager called William Seger, who is starting this week. I am sure you will join with me wishing him a warm welcome to Stimpson.

Inset Day

A reminder that the school is **closed** for a staff-training day on **Friday 26th February** but will **open** as normal on **Monday 29th February**. Thank you.

Illness and sickness

Please may I remind you that if your child experiences any sickness or diarrhea, in line with guidelines, you are politely requested for your child to be kept off for 48 hours. Thank you for your support and understanding with this.

Attendance and Punctuality

At Stimpson our attendance figures continue to be positive and are currently at 96.4% for this academic year. Thank you for all working so hard to ensure your children regularly attend school. Please can I remind you that holiday is not permitted during school time and this will be unauthorised.

Punctuality, however, still remains a target for us at Stimpson and I would therefore appreciate your support in ensuring your child arrives to school on time. However, this is starting to improve and thank you for responding to this since my last Principal Letter in January. A reminder that the school doors open at **8.45am** and the gates will close by **8.55am**. School starts promptly at 9am and any arriving after this time will be marked as 'late'. Children who arrive late into class lose valuable learning time as well as disturbing an already settled classroom. Parents / Carers of those children who are persistently late will be contacted directly by the school office. If you are having difficulties getting your child into school on time, please do contact the school and we will endeavor 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.



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Midweek MESSIS Football Club

The Stimpson 'Midweek MESSIS' after school football club (Y1-6) will return after the holiday on Tuesday 23 February. As usual, they will collect the children from the school hall at 3.15pm and walk them to the PDC across the road from where they are collected at 4.45pm. You can join and play on the Tuesday or if you prefer, you can collect a booking form from the school Office or book online at www.littlemessis.com. Please also call 07786 825492 or email delaney@ffaclubs.com if you would like more information.

E-safety

E-Safety is so important in the modern world and at Stimpson, we continue to take the responsibility of promoting safe use of technology very seriously. As I am sure you are aware, it was Safer Internet Day on Tuesday and as a parent, I found the following poster really useful to inform us of the age restrictions for social media platforms:

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?

Age	Social Media Sites and Apps
13	Twitter Facebook Instagram Pinterest Google+ Tumblr Reddit Snapchat Secret
14	LinkedIn
16	WhatsApp
17	Vine Tinder
18	Path
18 / 13 with parent's permission	YouTube WeChat Keek Kik Foursquare Flickr



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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.

Open Door Policy

I strongly believe in close partnership with parents / 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 staff or me, and you cannot get hold of us directly, please call the office. You can also email me on head@stimpsonave.northants-ecl.gov.uk

I finally would like to wish you all a fun-filled, yet safe half term. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 22nd February.

Best Wishes,

Kimberley Kemp
Head of School



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