



# Principal Informer

Issue 13: Friday, 20 March 2015

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Our new website is now live!!!

[www.stimpsonavenueacademy.org](http://www.stimpsonavenueacademy.org)

Hopefully you have had an opportunity to visit our new website. Over time this will be updated and enhanced to include everything you need to know about the school. Our new text alert system is also now live, enabling us to contact parents with messages more efficiently.

## Polling Day – Thursday, 7 May

Despite our best efforts to avoid closure on polling day on Thursday, 7 May, the school has been forced to close to children by Northampton Borough Council. **On this day teachers will be in school planning the new curriculum and new ways of assessment. However, the school will remain open to Year 6. It is essential that all of Year 6 attend school on this day in preparation for the SATs which take place the following week.** Please be assured that the school will be secured and the children will have no contact with the general public on this day. They must enter the playground in the usual way. Collection will be at 3.15 pm from the playground as usual.



**WORLD BOOK DAY** - The children looked great dressed as characters from their favourite book for World Book Day. There were a number of Where's Wally and Harry Potter characters as well as many children dressed as Elsa. As well as promoting reading, the day also promoted peer support across the school as the older children buddied the younger children. We will be continuing with reading buddies every third week as well as continuing with many different approaches to the teaching and promotion of reading across the school. Watch this space...



**SWEETS AND TREATS TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS** – It is with regret and after much consideration, that the school has decided not to distribute sweets or any other edible treats brought in by children. Such treats are often brought in to celebrate birthdays and are distributed by teachers at the end of the school day. Unfortunately, we have had an incident where a child has been hospitalised with a severe allergic reaction to a sweet that he was given. Even though children do not eat the treats until they are supervised by parents outside of school, we do not want any of our children or parents to suffer such an experience in the future.



**VIKINGS VISIT STIMPSON** – On Thursday, Years 3&4 were invaded by Vikings. Many children came dressed in Viking costume and Viking visitors were dressed in traditional costume of furs and linens accompanied with artefacts and they made their presence felt very loudly in school. This inspiring day was designed to bring the theme of Vikings to life for the children and to inspire their writing. Well done to all!



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## Attendance

School attendance target for 2014/15: **96%**

School attendance to date: **96.2%**

Number of days lost to unauthorised leave to date: **431**

Number of children recorded late to date: **1496**

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**THE GREAT GARDEN TIDY UP** – Thank you very much to Helping Hands and Miss Berlingieri for giving up their Saturday morning to spring clear the school garden. A magnificent job was done and the area is now safe for children to use. The garden will be open permanently in the summer term for quiet games. Each year will be allocated a different day to use the garden.

**HANDWRITING AT STIMPSON** - We have put a great deal of emphasis on handwriting and presentation since September and the children have responded really well. Regular handwriting sessions in the early years are taking place and children are being taught to join up their writing when they are ready, but definitely by Year 2. When children are ready they are awarded a pen. All children in Key Stage 2 write in pen. Next year we will be introducing fountain pens for children in upper Key Stage 2 who have developed their own, neat written script. We present children with a variety of fonts, although the font we teach the children has the leading stroke. An example of how we expect children to write their letters is detailed below.

**Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff**  
**Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll**  
**Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq**  
**Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww**



**Reminder** – School will re-open to children on Tuesday, 14 April. Monday, 13 April is a staff training day. We wish all of our families a happy Easter time.