



Principal Informer

Issue 6: Friday, 21 November 2014

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Dear Parents/Carers

The school has been very busy this week as parents and carers attended the Termly Learning Conversations.

After talking to a few parents, it was generally felt that the interim reports were useful to start a dialogue about how well your child is progressing. We will be enhancing this report as we move forward. Thank you also for completing the parental questionnaire on the school's effectiveness. If you were unable to complete the questionnaire, especially parents who attended TLCs on Tuesday night, copies can be collected from the front office. The questionnaire will be incredibly useful as we plan for strategic improvements for the future. We will report the findings before we finish the term.

We will be writing to you soon about how tickets will be issued for the various Christmas productions.

Congratulations to the children who raised £285.85 for Children in Need.

Darren

Important reading meeting for parents of children in Reception – Year 4

We are significantly changing the way that we teach reading from Nursery. We have adopted a programme to support the teaching of phonics (early reading) that we are confident will ensure that the vast majority of children will be able to decode any word by the time they finish Year 1. This will then give them the confidence and skills to read for meaning and enjoyment from then on. For a period of time we have to play catch up with many children to ensure that they are able to become confident decoders. We would therefore like to invite parents to a information session on Tuesday, 25 November at 3.15 pm and 6.00 pm to discuss our new approach and how you can support your child to read at home. We will meet with parents in Upper Key Stage 2 in Term 3.



Deck the Halls – Friday, 28 November 2014 (Free mince pies!)

We hope that as many parents as possible will be able to attend our Deck the Halls afternoon on **Friday, 28 November**. During the session you will be able to support your child in a design and technology session to create a Christmas decoration. **Please arrive at the school for 1.20 pm** through the main entrance where you will be directed to your child's class. If you have children in more than one class you will be able to split your time between classes if you wish. If you have a child in Year 3 or 4, please note that their "Deck the Halls" session will be from 10.00 am until midday. This is because Friday afternoon is planning time for Year 3 and Year 4 teachers. Again, please enter the school through main reception.



Don't forget that the photographer will be in school **Wednesday, 26 November**. Parents wishing to have family portraits can arrive from 8.15 am via the front entrance. Please note that all photographs taken throughout the day will be individual portraits.

Attendance

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

School attendance to date: **95.8%**

Number of days lost to unauthorised leave to date: **237.5**

Number of children recorded late to date: **555**

A note from Helping Hands

The children have worked really hard in class recently to produce some beautiful and unique designs for their Christmas Cards. This week you will have received an order form for you to order packs of cards and gift tags with your child's design. Please ensure that you let the school office have your orders by Thursday 13th November in order for them to arrive in time for you to send the cards on to friends and family for Christmas. Our Winter Wonderland themed Christmas Fair will be taking place on **Saturday 6th December from 1pm-3pm** and we are still looking for raffle prizes and volunteers to man stalls during the fair and/or to set up or clear away afterwards. If you can feel you can help in any way - please get in touch via stimp-sonhelpinghands+committee@groupspaces.com or the school office. Many thanks again for your continued support.

Helping Hands



School photos– Add date

Please note that the school photographer will now be in school on XX and not Wednesday 12th November to take individual class photos. The photographer will also be in school from XX to take family portraits if you wish to bring other younger siblings. During the day we will make sure that children with siblings are photographed together. We have been assured that photographs will be ready for Christmas.

Communication with school

It is a priority to have excellent communication about all aspects of school life with parents and the community. We hope that our website will be live before the end of term. We are working on a new texting system to engage with parents as well as an online payment system to bring us into the modern age! Unfortunately we have been resited with capacity in the office to do this during this term but we hope to have it operational for the new year. Thank you for using the Home/ School Partnership book which is working well.

Clubs in school

We are offering a number of sports clubs before and after school.. These include dodgeball and multi skills as well as basket ball that has been in school for many years. The cost of dodge ball and multiskills is £2 per session and is available to Key Stage 2. Please ask at the office if you wish you child to take part as the are still places available.

PE– Please note that PE kits MUST be in school ALL WEEK for ALL children. We have no provision for supervising children when they do not have kit. Children can become disruptive during lessons when they cannot take part. To avoid this we will contact parents and we will expect PE kits to be brought to school immediately or for parents to supervise their child during the session. Also, any child who is unable to do PE due to having their ear pierced will be expected to be supervised by parents whilst they are unable to remove their earrings for PE. Thank you for your co-operation.

Thank you to those parents who have offered to help in school. We will be responding to you shortly.

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96%

Number of days lost to unauthorised leave to date:

School attendance to date:

Number of children recorded late to date
