



# Principal Informer

Issue 20: Friday, 25 September 2015

head@stimpsonave.northants-ecl.gov.uk



## Harvest Festival – Friday, 2 October

We will be celebrating Harvest on Friday, 2 October. Children will be considering where food comes from and the impact of food miles during a special assembly. A selection of children will be performing poems. We regret that parents cannot be invited to this event due to space. We would appreciate your child donating tinned or dried fruit products that will be donated to the local homeless shelter. We would also appreciate a £1 coin being securely attached to the tin or packet. This will be donated to UNICEF who are supporting children currently affected by the conflict in Syria. Thank you in advance for your support.

## A chance to meet your child's class teacher

There are many new faces at Stimpson this year and we would like to invite you into school on Wednesday, 30 September from 3.20-3.50 pm to meet your child's class teacher. The children will be handed over to parents as usual after school on this day. Please allow all children to exit the school and at 3.20 pm please re-enter the school with your child who will introduce you to their new teacher. This is an opportunity for you to chat to the teacher informally and to see what is happening in the classroom. Please note that this is not a parent consultation event.

## Stay and share with your child in KS1

We would very much like to invite parents with children in Years 1 and 2 into school at 8.55 am every Thursday morning to enable them to share their learning with you. This may be sharing a book or a piece of work that they have completed and that they are proud of. Stay and Share finishes at 9.15 am. We will be commencing Stay and Share with Foundation Stage at the beginning of Term 2.

## Uniform

We are very proud of how smart the children look in their uniform. We understand that there have been some delays from our supplier which is very frustrating and we will seek to ensure that this does not happen in the future. It has been noticed that some children are coming to school in round neck jumpers which are not acceptable as school uniform. Some jumpers/cardigans are also black rather than navy, again such items are not permitted. We would also appreciate parents purchasing v-neck jumpers with the logo embroidered. This provides children with a collective identity of which they can be proud. May we also remind parents that ties are essential from Year 1 other than for girls wearing summer dresses.

## Reading at Stimpson

We are very proud of our reading achievements throughout the school. We are tenacious about children becoming confident decoders of text by the end of Year 1. To achieve this we use the Read, Write Inc strategy. Children in Foundation and Year 1 and if necessary other children in years above will bring home a RWI book that they can celebrate with you by being able to read it well. It is expected that children will change their RWI book every third or fifth day depending on the colour. Please would parents ensure that they return the RWI books when their child has completed them. Older children in the school will bring home a real book at an age appropriate level. Each child will visit the library every fortnight. We will be informing parents of how they can support their child at a reading meeting on Wednesday, 7 October.

## 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.

## Medical needs

It is essential that we have up to date information relating to the medical needs of your child. We know of many of their needs and we have the medication in school to deal with them. Please ensure that any medication (which must be prescribed) is in date, such as asthma inhalers, and is given to the office. Please sign a permission slip if you have not already done so. These are available from the school office. This will ensure that we have an up to date register.

## Rewarding Success

We have introduced a new reward system in addition to House points and Principal's award. This is to reward individual success and the children are very excited by it. Children will be rewarded for excellent attainment and/or effort in their academic, artistic or sporting achievements.

### HOUSE POINTS

All children (Years 1-6) will be placed into a House (Nile, Amazon, Mississippi, Thames). House points are awarded by any member of staff, Head Boy/Girl or Prefect for children demonstrating the school values. A gold star is given and put on the House point chart. House point charts are collated weekly and the winning house celebrated during Celebration Assembly. The winning House each seasonal term will be rewarded. Foundation Stage are not allocated to Houses until they are in Year 1. They will receive individual stickers for good work, effort and behaviour.

In addition to House points we have introduced rewards for a child's individual achievement/effort demonstrated in their academic, artistic or sporting activities. This is done as follows:

### Pot of Gold — Key Stage 1

Key Stage 1 will have 3 gold stars in their book to achieve 1 credit

- 15 credits in total - Blue Award (Parents/Carers invited to Celebration Assembly/Blue Badge)
- 25 credits in total - Red Award (Parents/Carers invited to Celebration Assembly/Red Badge)
- 35 credits in total - Green Award (Parents/Carers invited to Celebration Assembly/Green Badge)
- 50 credits in total - 'Pot of Gold' (Parents/Carers invited to Celebration Assembly/tea with Principal/award of Gold Badge)

### Success Passport - Key Stage 2

Key Stage 2 will have 3 gold stars in their book to achieve 1 credit

- 25 credits in total - Bronze award (Parents/Carers invited to Celebration Assembly/Bronze Badge)
- 50 credits in total - Silver award (Parents/Carers invited to Celebration Assembly/Silver Badge)
- 75 credits in total - Gold award (Parents/Carers invited to Celebration Assembly/Gold Badge and tea with Principal)
- 100 credits in total - Platinum Award (Parents/Carers invited to Celebration Assembly/Platinum Badge and £10 high street voucher)

Each child in KS1 and KS2 has either a Pot of Gold book or Success Passport to collect their well deserved credits.

### SCHOOL MEAL ORDERS

Please note that paper order forms must be received in the school office by 3.30 pm on Mondays for meals to be taken the following week.

### KEY DATES THIS TERM

Tuesday, 29 September 2015 at 3.15 pm	-	France September 2016 meeting for Year 5
Wednesday, 30 September at 3.20 pm	-	Parents/Carers meet child's teacher and view school
Thursday, 1 October at 9.00 am	-	Reception Sing-a-long Harvest
Thursday, 1 October following the Sing-a-long	-	Helping Hands New Parents/Carers Coffee Morning
Friday, 2 October	-	Whole school Harvest Festival Assembly
Tuesday, 6 October	-	Year 6CE Class Assembly
Wednesday, 7 October	-	Reading Evening for Parents
Thursday, 8 October at 6.00 pm	-	Kingswood Residential Meeting for Year 4
Wednesday, 14 October at 2.00 pm	-	Helping Hands Annual General Meeting
Thursday, 15 October	-	Thoroughly Thrilling Thursday (EYFS/Key Stage 1)
Thursday, 15 October at 2.00 pm	-	Parent Forum
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	-	
19/21/23 October	-	Reception Show Rounds at 9.30 am and 1.30 pm
Tuesday, 20 October	-	Year 2CF Class Assembly
Thursday, 22 October	-	Thoroughly Thrilling Thursday Years 3 and 4
Friday, 23 October	-	Helping Hands Monster Ball Disco

### MUFTI DAY

To celebrate the Rugby World Cup which is already under way, we have organised a Mufti Day for Friday, 16 October. Please come to school dressed in your favourite team's strip or in the colours of any of the international teams. In order to participate, please bring in £1 to give to your class teacher.

Thank you.

Helping Hands



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