



# Principal Informer

Issue 4: Friday, 24 October 2014

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Dear Parents/Carers

Wow! Already we have reached the end of Term 1. We have achieved a great deal in school. The children have responded extremely well to the many changes in routines and expectations placed upon them.

This week the senior leadership team have looked at books across the school. It is clear that children are responding to the teachers' feedback and making progress as marking becomes consistent across the school. All children from Year 1 have targets for writing and maths and can talk about them. The senior leadership team have also visited each class to see how well the children are learning and I am very proud of the commitment and dedication shown by all staff towards expecting the best from children.

An interim report on your child's progress and next step targets will go out on 16 November. You will be able to discuss this at the parents' evening on 19 and 20 November. Details to follow.

We were also thrilled to see so many parents in school over the last couple of weeks. The first Thoroughly Thrilling Thursday in Early Years and Key Stage 1 was extremely well attended as parents supported their children with work in the curriculum. KS1's fashion show where the children showcased their slippers created at the end of their theme on shoemaking in Northampton was also very well attended.

Kind comments were made by parents when in school. We would very much like you to record any positive experiences that you or your child has had since being back at school on the attached 'Kind Comment Card' and return to school next term.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Jackie Wilson in the middle of next term. Jackie has worked in the school for 18 years and decided before the summer to try pastures new. On behalf of the entire school community I thank Jackie for all that she has contributed to the school over the years and I wish her well for the future. Jackie will be replaced by Sum Marriott who has extensive experience of early years education. She has worked for the local authority and for the Camrose Centre. She will work alongside Jackie for the first two weeks of the new term so that parents and children get to know her well.

Our website is nearly complete and we look forward to launching it next term.

Next term we look forward to preparations towards Christmas. Foundation Stage and KS1 will be presenting a Nativity. Years 3 & 4 will be presenting a Pantomime. (Years 5 & 6 will take part in a production at the end of the year).

The children continue to look really smart. Please always remember the tie from Year 1 upwards. Thank you for your continued support.

*Darren*



### **A note from Helping Hands**

Many congratulations to all this term's Reading Champions. Please let Helping Hands know which book you choose to buy with your voucher and happy reading. Very well done too to all the winners of the Diwali Colouring Competition, there were some really beautiful designs and it wasn't an easy job choosing the winners. Prizes were awarded in assembly this afternoon.

Thank you for all the old clothes and textiles you brought in on Tuesday morning for the Bag2School collection. It is an excellent way for us all to unclutter our houses but most importantly it helps us to raise vital funds for the school.

HH are already busy planning our Christmas Fair which will be held on **Saturday, 6 December** and we are already searching for raffle prizes. In our experience, most companies only support charities nominated by their own employees. If you work for a company, please could you ask if they would be able to support your child's school either by donating a prize suitable for the raffle, by sponsoring or by match-funding a stall. If you can help, or you would like more information, please email [stimpsonhelpinghands+committee@groupspaces.com](mailto:stimpsonhelpinghands+committee@groupspaces.com) or leave a message for us at the school office.

### **Training day**

Please note that our next closure day is **Monday, 10 November**. This is the fourth of five statutory days for teacher training. We will again be focussing on reading.

**Snacks at playtime** The children have been informed that from the start of next term, they will only be allowed fruit at playtime. Please ensure that your child carries their fruit in their reading bag so that they do not have to go into their lunchboxes at playtime. We wish to promote healthy lifestyles and issues which sometimes occur with lunchboxes during the day. Thank you.

**Uniform** If parents wish their child to wear a hijab, then please ensure they are navy in colour. Pattern hijabs are not acceptable as uniform.

### **Introducing Houses and team points**

The newly elected school councillors have decided to name the four houses in school on the theme of great rivers. They have chosen Mississippi, Nile, Amazon and Thames. Early next term the children, with their younger siblings, will be placed in a House. The Houses will be led by House Captains from Year 6. For Mississippi, Shamiah Blackwood and Madelaine Campbell will represent, for Nile, Lara Dunning and Faye Ahmed, for Amazon, Pharrell McLean and Daisy Clarke and for Thames, Isabella D'Agostino and Mujahid Islam. Children will receive House points for good work and model behaviour and they will be celebrated in Celebration assembly each Friday.

### **Parent Forum**

Thank you to all of those parents who attended the Parent Forum last week. Altogether there were 48 parents which is really good! We discussed the vision of the school and we will report further on this next term. In further conversation, parents requested additional after school clubs and a letter has gone out in regard to this in KS2. We can also confirm that will be opening up the garden at lunchtime and the 'worry boxes' will be placed in classrooms for children to present concerns, sometimes anonymously, for the class teacher's attention. The next Parent Forum will be on 5 February 2015 and minutes will then be published on the website. Parent voice is really appreciated as together we move our school forward.

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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:** **149.5**

**Number of lates to date:** **382**

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