



Stimpson Avenue Academy
Stimpson Avenue Northampton NN1 4LR
Telephone: 01604 631383
Fax: 01604 454471
E-Mail: head@stimpsonave.northants-ecl.gov.uk

Executive Head: Sarah Bennett
Head of School: Kim Kemp

24th March 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Where is this year disappearing to? Once again, I cannot believe that we are now drawing to the end of another term. As a parent myself of a child in Year 6, the fact we are now moving into the summer term, the last one in primary for these children just doesn't seem possible. We will definitely have to make the most of the next term and treasure the fun times it will entail.

Although a short half term, it has been jam packed full of fun and exciting events – Saints rugby match, World Book Day, Thoroughly Thrilling Thursday, Stay and Share, book sales, Easter assembly and parade and the Easter disco to name but a few! I hope your child has enjoyed this half term and they are proud of all their amazing achievements. The feedback from teachers during parent consultations is a clear indicator of how well your wonderful children are doing. Thank you to so many of you for your kind words to the teachers and recognition of all the hard work they put in to make school the best experience it can be for all the children. They certainly are passionate about the children and I am proud that they always keep the happiness of the children at the core of everything they do. With this in mind, if your child is ever worried or unhappy, please always contact the school so we can work together to resolve their issue. After all, a happy child is a learning child and their safety and happiness has got to be the priority.

Parent/ Carer Questionnaire

We really value your viewpoints so we can evaluate what we are doing well from your perspective and how we can improve. I have therefore devised a questionnaire to seek your opinions. The link to access this questionnaire is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GQ7MP8N>

If you do not have access to the Internet, then please ask the office for a paper copy as we would really appreciate as many responses as possible. Thank you.

Staff leaving and new staff arriving!

With sadness, I must inform you that Tenille Piggin, a highly valued Year 4 Class Teacher, will be leaving us today. We know she will be sorely missed but we wish her all the best and huge success in the next step of her career.

We have employed Claire Mills, a very experienced and highly regarded teacher, who will be starting straight after the Easter holiday. I am sure you will warmly welcome Mrs Mills to Stimpson.

SATs

Please remember that the KS2 SATs occur week commencing Monday 9th May. The SATs occur nationally throughout this week and all Year 6 children have to take their tests during this time and are not allowed to complete them at alternative times. It is therefore VERY important that your child attends school for the whole of this week and the weeks leading up

to the tests to ensure they receive all the tuition required to help them feel as knowledgeable and confident as possible. However, it is also really important we keep children as calm as possible and at school, we will endeavour to keep the tests as stress free as possible. If your child is becoming nervous or anxious about the tests, please ensure you contact the school so we can work together to help reduce this anxiety. Although we recognise these examinations are important, we must ensure the children's happiness remains key.

The KS1 SATs also occur next half term and they will commence from Monday 6th June. Unlike the KS2 SATs, there is more flexibility when the children can complete the tests and therefore if a child is really poorly, they can sit them on a different day. Again, it is really important the children are in school to receive the appropriate learning opportunities to help them achieve the best they can. However, I am very mindful the children are still very young and it is really important they do not feel any stress or anxiety about them. If they are, please contact the school so we can ensure this stress or anxiety does not continue.

Car Parking

Please may I remind all parents and carers dropping off and collecting their children from school to ensure they are always parking in permitted areas and always show respect for the local community. The links we have with our community are so important and it is therefore really important we do not park in private car parks or on restricted areas, including yellow lines. May we also request that you refrain from parking in the restricted area outside the back gates as this is putting all of our children's safety at risk. Thank you.

Outdoor Environment – improvements to the school environment

Helping hands continue to provide invaluable support to improve the school for everyone. Work to continue to improve the playground and the Nursery will continue in the Easter holidays.

I am also really pleased to announce that Barclaycard have kindly nominated our school for their community citizenship project. This means that they have kindly arranged for some volunteers to come in to school on 31 March between the hours of 10-3pm to help clear the garden so we can get it open for the summer! The changes are planned to enable the garden area to be permanently open to the children so they can enjoy it in the summer sun! If anyone else is available to help on one or both of these days, Helping Hands would really appreciate additional support. Please contact them on: stimpsonhelpinghand@outlook.com Thank you so much for Karen Pollard a mother of two children in the school for providing us with this opportunity and of course to Helping Hands for organising this. I am sure we would all agree, having the garden open to the children for the summer term will be wonderful for them.

Term Dates

A reminder that the school is **closed** tomorrow, **Friday 25th March** for the start of the Easter holiday and will **open** on **Monday 11th April**. There is NO inset day on the Monday 11th March and the school will be open to the children.

Illness/ sickness and procedures for informing the school

Please may I remind you that if your child experiences any sickness or diarrhoea, 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.

If your child is absent, please ensure you report their absence by 9am on a **daily** basis. An answerphone is available to leave a message and please ensure you leave their name,

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class and reason for absence. This is really important for safeguarding purposes and if we do not hear from you, our first day response procedures mean we will always follow up children not attending school with a phone call. Naturally, this can be a time-consuming process and your call will help the office run more efficiently. Additionally, it means if an older child who walks to school on their own does not arrive at school we can ensure we are aware at the earliest opportunity. If your child is off with vomiting or diarrhoea, in line with the policy for the 48 hours they are required to be absent from school, we will mark them absent for both days **as long as you make it clear this is the reason they are off on the first day**. If your child is not back into school on the third day, you will need to call school again. Thank you for your help with this.

Attendance and Punctuality

At Stimpson our attendance figures continue to be positive and are currently at 96.33% 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 continues to improve although there are still times where there are as many as 24 'lates' in one week. Please ensure your child arrives promptly in school; it is so important they do not miss valuable learning times and additionally, interrupt the learning of others when they arrive. English and Maths lessons commence promptly at 9am so it is imperative all children are in registration by 8.55am at the very latest. A reminder that the school doors open at **8.45am** and the gates will close by **8.55am**. Parents/ Carers of those children who are persistently late will be contacted directly by the school office and a letter will be sent. If you are having difficulties getting your child into school on time, please do contact the school and we will endeavour 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.

Messis Football Club

The Stimpson 'Tuesday MESSIS' after school football club (Y1-6) **will now move to Fridays**. 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 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

I am sure we all agree in today's modern world we must continue to work hard to ensure we keep our children safe when using technology. At Stimpson, we continue to take the responsibility of promoting E-Safety very seriously. If you ever have any concerns with regards to pupil's use of technology, including text messages, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

To help with keeping our children safe, I have been recommended some 'Child Friendly Search Engines'. Search engines can be half the problem with using the Internet and result in exposing children to 'accidental' information we would otherwise choose our children not be exposed to. The following search engines are completely safe for your children and don't bring up inappropriate pages. You can also set them as your home page! These are:

Kidrex.org
Safesearchkids.com
Wisekids.org.uk

Swiggle.org.uk
Gogooligans.com
Searchypants.com

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 a 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 Easter holiday and enjoy all the chocolate! I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 11th April.

Best Wishes,

Kimberley Kemp

Diary Dates –Summer (Terms 5 and 6).

Easter Holiday: Close Thursday, 24 March 2016 – Re-open to pupils Monday, 11 April 2016

| TERM 5 | EVENT | DATE | |
|-------------------|---|------------|---|
| | Year 1EJ Class Assembly | Tuesday | 19.04.2016 |
| | Year 3AG Class Assembly | Tuesday | 26.04.2016 |
| | Bank Holiday – School Closed | Monday | 02.05.2016 |
| | SATs Week – Year 6 | Mon-Thurs | 09.05.2016-12.05.2016 |
| | Year 4CM Class Assembly | Tuesday | 10.05.2016 |
| | Year EYFS and Year 1 Sports Day | Wednesday | 17.05.2016 (Alternative if wet 07.06.2016) |
| | Year RMA Class Assembly | Tuesday | 17.05.2016 |
| | TTT Thoroughly Thrilling Thursday (Wednesday) KS2 | Wednesday | 18.05.2016 9.00 to 10.15 |
| | | | |
| | TTT (Thoroughly Thrilling Thursday) EYFS/KS1 | Thursday | 19.05.2016 9.00 to 10.15 |
| | Year 2 and KS2 Sports Day | Thursday | 19.05.2016 (Alternative if wet 09.06.2016) |
| Class Photographs | Tuesday | 24.05.2016 | |

Summer Half Term: Close Friday, 27 May 2016 – Re-open to pupils Monday, 6 June 2016

| TERM 6 | EVENT | DATE | |
|--------|---|-----------|---------------------------|
| | Nursery/Reception New Intake evening | Thursday | 15.06.2016 6.00 pm |
| | Nursery/Reception Father's Day | Friday | 17.06.2016 |
| | Year RRS Class Assembly | Tuesday | 21.06.2016 |
| | Year 5HS Class Assembly | Tuesday | 28.06.2016 |
| | Transfer Week and move up days | Monday | 04.07.2016 TBC |
| | Reports out to Parents | Monday | 04.07.2016 |
| | Head Boy/Head Girl Elections | Thursday | 07.07.2016 |
| | Helping Hands Summer Fair | Saturday | 09.07.2016 |
| | Pupil whole school event | Monday | 11.07.2016 |
| | Celebration Parent Consultation Drop-in evening | Tuesday | 12.07.2016 3.30 – 6.30 pm |
| | Celebration Parent Consultation Drop-in evening | Wednesday | 13.07.2016 3.30 – 6.30 pm |
| | Year 6 Leavers' Celebration | Wednesday | 13.07.2016 |
| | Year 6 party event | Thursday | 14.07.2016 |
| | House winners celebration | Monday | 18.07.2016 |
| | Celebration Assembly | Tuesday | 20.07.2016 |

School Closes Wednesday, 20 July 2016