

25 November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the darkness draws in, your children's smiles and laughter light up my days! They continue to work so hard and their kindness continues to be central to everything they do. The Remembrance service was just another reminder of how poignant and thoughtful they are. We could barely hear a pin drop throughout the service and the respect such young children showed was incredible. They truly moved both myself and a couple of visitors to the school who attended the service. They both came and commented how impressed they were by the children's behaviour and maturity. This certainly is something I am going to sincerely miss.

The last few weeks have been excitingly busy, yet I know this is only going to speed up further as we race towards the end of this term!

Children in Need

We all had such fun raising money for such a worthwhile charity. The children were truly 'spotty' as was the school! So many of them dressed up in spots and your dressmaking skills never cease to amaze me – you certainly put me to shame! The 'small change' activity was a huge success and the lines created were impressive with many running the length of the school! The results are as follows:

Year 2 – 29.00m

Year 3 - 42.76m

Year 4 – 33.80m

Year 5 – 41.00m

Year 6 – 47.25m



Nursery children had great fun placing their coins on pictures of Pudsey Bear while Reception enjoyed their coin recognition activity. Year 1 enjoyed making a trail of coins all around their classrooms.

Well done to everyone but a special well done to Year 6 for being the year group with the total longest line and Year 6 Eagles for being the winning class.

I am thrilled to announce that so far we have raised over £400 which is amazing. Thank you everyone for giving so generously. We still have some of the coppers to count and we will update you with the final amount when we have finished counting them all!

Reading workshop

Thank you so much to so many of you who attended the reading workshops on Wednesday afternoon. We had over 68 parents/carers who attended and this is a great turn out. Thank you for your support. Reading is not only such an important life skill but can provide us with such enjoyment and relaxation too!



Class Assemblies

What brilliant assemblies both Miss Edward's and Miss Whitwood's classes performed! I always marvel at the children's confidence and ability to remember all their words. I know we thoroughly enjoyed them so a massive well done!

Celebrations - Remembrance Day and Diwali

Throughout last week, we have been reminding and educating the children about Remembrance Day. This has involved them making a display with their stunning poetry and having a whole school assembly with a two minutes silence to pay our respects to all the lives lost during wars. The respect shown by all the children was impressive and I was very proud of them. They were a total credit to the school and to you.



The children have also been learning about Diwali, the Festival of Lights, one of the most significant festivals in the Hindu calendar, which celebrates the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.

Anti-bullying Week

Last week was also important to promote the importance of anti-bullying. The children were reminded about bullying, including cyber-bullying, what bullying is and what to do if they are worried if they or someone else they know are being bullied. The importance of children sharing any worries they have was discussed and how they can use the worry boxes in school if they find it difficult to speak out. Leaflets were also sent home to support you, as parents and carers, and what do if you are worried.



Please may I take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of sharing any concerns you have, no matter how small. We operate an open door policy so if your child is finding it difficult to speak out please come in and see us.

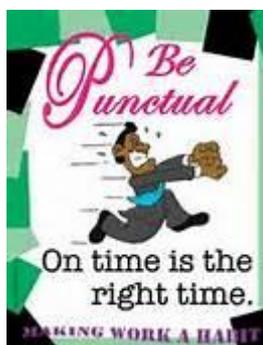
Year 4 trip to The Botanical Gardens

Yesterday Year 4 visited The Botanical Gardens to enjoy learning about their theme topic in a hands-on and practical way. They furthered their understanding of what constitutes a rainforest, the kind of environment it is and who lives there. As always, the children were brilliant and behaved impeccably. The staff said they were a joy to be with and fun was had by all!



Attendance and Punctuality

I am really pleased to inform you that our attendance figure is 96.72% and this is above national. Thank you for ensuring your children attends school and valuing their education. Please can I remind you that holiday is not permitted during school time and this will be unauthorised.



Punctuality continues to be a target to improve, however this has massively improved for the vast majority of pupils and now is only a concern for a small number of children so thank you to all those who always ensure their children arrive on time. A reminder that it is important that EVERY child arrives **promptly** in school; it is so important that they do not miss valuable learning times and additionally, interrupt the learning of others when they arrive. English and Maths lessons commence promptly at 9.00 am so it is imperative that all children are in registration by 8.55 am at the very latest. A reminder that the school doors open at **8.45 am** and the gates will close by **8.55 am**. A punctuality slip will be given to the parent/carer each time a child is late unless it is due to a medical reason. Parents/Carers of those children who are persistently late will be contacted directly by the school office and a letter will be sent home. If this continues, you be required to meet with our Attendance Officer to discuss the punctuality of your child or children. 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.

Teaching your child to be safe on line

With modern technology being such a key part of so many children's lives, it is really important we keep vigilant with their use of the Internet and media networking. Below are just some recommendations I received which you might also find useful.



Join the fun. This is no different from attending a sporting match or chaperoning on a dance or field trip. If your child has taken an interest in an online community such as Webkinz, Neopets, MySpace, Minecraft, etc., find out what they like about it. Sign up for your own account and add your child as a "friend". This allows you to have a better sense of what they are doing and what sort of things they are coming into contact with, but it also shows your children that you're interested in their activities.

Use available technology. There is no shortage of Internet Safety tools available to help you control, track and/or limit what your children can say and do online. Take the time to learn about Internet filters, firewalls, monitoring software, browsers for kids and other tools. While they are not a replacement for strong parenting, they can help make your task easier.

Do a little sleuthing. Use your browser history, cache and cookies to find out what sites your children have been visiting. This is not to suggest that you should spy on your children, but a spot check now and again is a good idea. Enter their names (including nicknames) into popular search engines to see if they have public profiles on social networking sites. Do the same with your address and phone number. You might be surprised by how much of your personal information is online!

Watch for online game playing. If your child plays online games, like Minecraft via an iPad, PC, PlayStation, X-box that are connected to the internet then make sure you are being vigilant as who they are playing with and what information they are sharing.

Watch for warning signals. A child who is reluctant to talk to you about what they are doing online or seems to be withdrawing from family and/or friends may have a problem. Cyber-bullying is just one experience that may cause your child to withdraw.



If you ever have any concerns or would like any support, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Safeguarding

On a serious note, as no one would question, the safety of our children is paramount. I would really appreciate it if you could remind your children about stranger danger; especially remind older children who walk to school about the importance of walking with others and not talking to strangers. If you or your child has any concerns, please always share them with us.

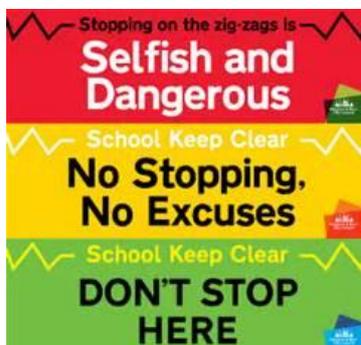
Please know that if your child walks alone or with other children, they may be at an increased risk. I would strongly recommend that children in Year 4 or younger are escorted into school and if they are in Years 5 and 6, they walk with other children. If your child is to be allowed to walk home alone after school, you must provide us with written permission. Additionally, it is now getting dark much earlier and it will be dark when the after school clubs finish. I therefore strongly recommend no children walk home after clubs without an adult.



Thank you for your support in such a crucial matter.

Car Parking

Sadly there has been an increase in complaints both from other parents and also the local community about car parking. Please may I remind all parents and carers 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 very important and it is therefore vital that we do not park in private car parks or on restricted areas, including yellow lines. This is also for the **safety** of us all. It only takes a few parents out of 460 to give us all a negative reputation and put the safety of our children at risk. I have contacted the council and requested they send a traffic warden to help ensure we all follow the parking guidelines which exist for our safety and convenience.



Looking forward to the rest of the term

The rest of the term is going to be incredibly busy but with such exciting and fun things to look forward to!

	EVENT	DATE		
TERM 2	"Deck the Halls" Years 1-6 Nursery Reception	Thursday	01.12.2016	2.00 PM 8.30 am-9.30 am 9.00 am-10.00 am
	Nativity – Nursery, Reception and Year 1	Thursday Friday	08.12.2016 09.12.2016	PM AM
	Helping Hands Christmas Fair	Saturday	10.12.2016	1.00 pm-3.00pm
	Pantomime for Whole School	Monday	12.12.2016	
	Christmas Dinner	Wednesday	14.12.2016	
	Years 2, 3 and 4 Christmas Performances	Thursday Friday	15.12.2016 16.12.2016	9.30 am 9.30 am
	Years 5 & 6 Carol Concert	Monday	19.12.2016	9.30 am
	Christmas Party Day	Monday	19.12.2016	

Best Wishes and Welcome

Sadly, Helen Garner has decided to leave us for personal reasons and she will be leaving next week. Although she has only been with us since September, she has made such a positive impact and will be really missed by children and staff alike. We wish her all the very best.

I am pleased to inform you, however, we have two new teaching assistants, Kerry Mawson and Tracey Kennedy who will be working within the Early Years and Year 1 team. Kerry Mawson is starting with us on Wednesday 1st December and Tracey Kennedy on Monday 28th November. We warmly welcome them to the Stimpson Avenue Academy staff team.

I am sure you will agree the rest of the term is certainly going to be eventful yet I am sure much fun will be had by all. I look forward to seeing you enjoying time with your children and watching their talents shine in all their performances.

Wishing you a lovely weekend full of rest ready for the action-packed finish to the term!

Warm wishes,

Kim Kemp
Head of School

Key Reminders and Key Dates

Open Door Policy

I strongly believe in close partnership with parents and 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 member of staff or myself, and you cannot get hold of us directly, please call the school office. You can also email me on head@stimpsonave.northants-ecl.gov.uk.

If your child is ever worried or unhappy, no matter how trivial it may seem, please always contact the school so we can work together to resolve this. After all, a happy child is a learning child and their safety and happiness has got to be the priority.

Improving Communication

Gone are the days of finding a screwed up letter at the bottom of your child's book bag! Communication really is important and as the majority of us are aware, depending upon our children to bring home letters is often not very reliable or successful. This, very understandably, leads to frustrations and inconvenience. I would therefore like to use emailing and texting as the key ways of communicating with you. It ensures you receive everything and equally saves time, money and the trees!

If you have not already done so, please make sure you share your email address with us to ensure you receive all correspondence from the school. We are aiming to send all information out electronically so it would be a huge benefit to you to sign up. Just email admin@stimpsonavepri.co.uk with your child's name, class and your preferred email address so that you don't miss out!

If you do not have an email address, then please do not worry, we will, of course, in this instance still send home paper copies of letters.

Stimpson Motto – 'Unlocking the learning minds of our future'.

Stimpson Avenue Academy Creed:

At Stimpson, we seek and unlock the inner talent and creativity making learning magic. **(Creative)**

We recognise everyone is unique, where each individual delivers something exceptional. **(Independence)**

We are an optimistic learning team, ensuring empathy and understanding which guides our endeavours for success.

We believe in reaching for the stars, where mistakes are only seen as an opportunity to learn and grow. **(Inquisitive)**

Our journey throughout the school, will turn each page transforming our stumbles into strides of success. **(Perseverance)**

Our academy will enthusiastically embrace British Values and Citizenship within the wealth and harmony of our multicultural community.

Believe big. Success at Stimpson will be achieved through empowering pupils and teachers; fulfilling dreams and creating imaginative minds. **(Focus)**

We are the future, dreaming new every day, welcoming challenges. **(Curious)**

United. Together as one. We will accomplish all our shared desires to create the children for our country's future. **(Collaboration)**

Safeguarding our children. It's everyone's business...

Safeguarding the welfare of children is paramount at our school. The poster below, detailing who is responsible for safeguarding is published extensively around school, on our safeguarding board and on the website. Please see one of the members of staff listed below in the strictest of confidence if you have concerns about a child. Alternatively you can call the MASH team at the local authority on 0300 126 1000.

The designated safeguarding officers at the school are:

Kimberley Kemp (Head of school and Safeguarding Lead)
Tina Berlingieri (Family Support Worker and Deputy Safeguarding Lead)
Mia Lewis (Assistant Principal)
Amanda Baker (Assistant Principal)
Abi Scott (SLT)



Duncan Mills is the representative from the EMLC Trust. You also call directly to the MASH team with any concerns including those involving children within the local community. I hope this helps to clarify who to contact and what you can do if you have any concerns about the safety of your own or another child.

Term Dates

Please can I remind you that as we are an Academy on some occasions our term dates differ from those of Northamptonshire County Council. Therefore, looking on Northamptonshire County Council's website will sometimes not provide you with the actual term dates of Stimpson Avenue Academy. Our term dates are on our website and they are as follows:

2016 – Term starts	2016 – Term ends
Monday 5 th September	Friday 21 st October
Tuesday 1 st November	Tuesday 20 th December

2017 – Term starts	2017 – Term ends
Thursday 5 th January	Friday 10 th February
Monday 20 th February	Friday 31 st March
Wednesday 19 th April	Friday 26 th May
Monday 5 th June	Friday 21 st July

Please Note that Teacher Training Days may change

Teacher Training Days 2016
Children not in School
Monday 31 st October

Teacher Training Days 2017
Children not in School
Wednesday 4 th January
Tuesday 18 th April