



Principal Informer

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Our new website is now live!!!

www.stimpsonavenueacademy.org

We are delighted to announce that our new website is now up and running. The website contains relevant information about the school. On the home page there is a diary of events for the year. The information contained on this is exactly the same as published on the red sheet at the start of the year. The website contains the most recent and past issues of Principal Informer. We will also be opening a Twitter feed to keep you up to date with school events. We will continue to add to the website, for example we will soon be adding class pages and blogging in the future! In addition, our new Parent Pay system is up and running. This will allow parents to pay for events online including the ordering and payment of school dinners. We hope that rapidly all transactions will be made using this facility. We will text parents about issues arising in school, however, we would urge parents to use the website and make note of upcoming events. We hope that parents will find communication from the school much more accessible now that we have entered the modern age!

World Book Day-Thursday, 5 March

As per the letter last week, World Book Day is on Thursday, 5 March. We invite your child to come to school dressed as their favourite book character and to bring with them their favourite labelled book. On this day we will be introducing Reading Buddies. All children have been allocated a reading buddy in school whom they will meet on this day. This is the start of our much bigger ambitions to develop peer mentors across the school and to enhance the sense of 'community' in school where children are seen to be collaboratively working together in their support of each other and their enjoyment of learning. We look forward to seeing your child transformed on Thursday!

Our Reading Scheme

We are in the process of radically changing the reading scheme. In Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 we have introduced Read Write Inc Phonics. This is an incredible system for the teaching of phonics and it is having magnificent results. It is our ambition that all children will be effortless decoders by the end of Year 1 so that they can then start reading for enjoyment and comprehension. This year we expect approximately 90% of Year 1 children to pass the phonics check compared with 76% last year, with the national average being 78%. The Read Write Inc reading books that our younger children bring home should be easily read by your child. They should not struggle with any word. The aim is to celebrate reading achievement at home rather than for children to struggle with unknown words and sounds that have not yet been taught. It is likely that a child will have such a home reader for between 3-5 days depending on their level. Please record what your child has read in their Home/School Partnership Book. Over time and funds permitting, our ambition is to replace the reading scheme across the school. We wish to see 'real', appealing, age appropriate books for children to choose in class and we will support parents with a strategy to further enhance their child's reading skills at home.

Stay & Share for Foundation and Key Stage 1

We were delighted to see so many parents join their children for Stay and Share on Thursday morning. This will be a weekly event from 8.50 am-9.10 am. Please continue to enter the classroom with your child and sign in there. Due to World Book Day this Thursday, Stay and Share will recommence on Thursday, 12 March.

Attendance

School attendance target for 2014/15:

96%

School attendance to date:

96.2%

Number of days lost to unauthorised leave to date:

398

Number of children recorded late to date

1333



The Great Stimpson Garden Tidy-Up!!!

Now that the first signs of Spring are apparent, we are turning our attention to the school garden that we wish to see open every day for children to enjoy. If you wish to join a group of volunteers on Saturday, 21 March at 10 am for 2 hours then it would be very much appreciated. Entrance to the school will be through the side gate on Adnitt Road. There is the promise of warm tea and hot cross buns. Hope to see you there!

Come and get to know Helping Hands

As a parent, carer or grandparent of a child at Stimpson Avenue, you are automatically a member of Helping Hands, our parent committee who work tirelessly to support the school with fundraising and support. Helping Hands has a long history of supporting the school and this year, for example, they have purchased a new school stage with a donation that you have all contributed to by participating in school events. The committee of Helping Hands, led currently by Carrie Jameson, are a very friendly and inclusive group and they would like to invite you to a coffee morning on

19 March between 9 am-11 am in the school hall.

This is a great opportunity to become involved in the life of the school and to meet new people. There is no obligation to become involved. However, if you have time to give, no matter how much, it would be really appreciated. The hard work of Helping Hands pays for the 'icing on the cake' events and purchases bought by the school for your children to enjoy. Hope to see you on the 19th!

Polling Day – Thursday, 7 May 2015

Despite our best efforts to avoid closure on polling day on Thursday, 7 May, the school has been forced to close to children by Northampton Borough Council. On this day teachers will be in school planning the new curriculum and new ways of assessment. However, the school will remain open to Year 6. It is essential that all of Year 6 attend school on this day in preparation for the SATs which take place the following week. Please be assured that the school will be secured and the children will have no contact with the general public on this day. They must enter the playground in the usual way. Collection will be at 3.15 pm from the playground as usual.



Advance Notice – Summer Fair

Helping Hands are pleased to announce that this year's **Summer Fair** will be held on

Saturday, 13 June.

Please make a note in your diary. More information to follow.

Children walking home alone

We have had several requests from parents to allow their child to walk home alone. With parental permission we are happy for this to happen with children in Year 6. However, we have had requests from parents of children in Year 4. Whilst we cannot stop parents from doing this and allowing their child to walk home alone, we strongly discourage this for safety reasons. There is no legal age at which children are allowed to walk home on their own. The school would not, however, allow a child younger than Year 4 to do so.