



Stimpson Avenue Academy
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Head of School: Kim Kemp

21st October 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an exciting first half term of the year! As you will see from this newsletter, it has been fun-packed, diverse and most importantly, involved the members of our school community. It has been great to see so many of you at the events we have held so far this year; the welcome afternoon to meet new class teachers, the mathematics workshops, class assemblies and Thoroughly Thrilling Thursday where it was hard to see who enjoyed it more – you or your children! Finally, I was delighted to see such a great turn out for the school Halloween disco. I am sure you would agree it was an incredible success and so important to our children! Mind you, I am not sure whom you brought to the disco, as I did not recognise most of the children – they had turned into rather gruesome creatures, although I am glad to see they returned to normal for the following day at school! The children have also enjoyed many other events during this half term including Year 6 visiting The Guildhall, Harvest Festival celebrations and Nursery, Reception and Year 1 visiting a local church.

As always, the children were incredible and an absolute credit to both you and the school. They never cease to amaze me with their kind hearts, caring attitudes and sense of fun. Every day they remind us of what is important – their happiness and love of learning.

Student Council 2016 to 2017

I am really excited to welcome on board our new student council members for this academic year. The members are voted for by the children themselves, very apt considering they are the voice of the children! I am very impressed with their level of maturity and how seriously the children take this; they voted for those they truly felt would be the best representatives for them rather than just their friends. The members of the Student Council are:

Ianis, Fayez, Ella, Klaudia, Warda, Hugh, Tansy, Jack, Mazie and Jacob.

I am already really enjoying working with them and we have started off with sharing the views and ideas of all their classmates on how the school could be improved. Some great ideas have certainly been put forward and the Student Council are voting on the priorities and what to implement first. I have to say that although I love the idea of one child for a spa, unfortunately I am not so sure our budget would stretch to that! Perhaps it was the teacher having a little whisper to suggest this as I am not sure how much the children would benefit from a school sauna!

Good Luck to Helen Sparkes!

It is with sadness that I am writing to inform you that a much respected and valued member of the Stimpson Avenue Academy team, Helen Sparkes, will be leaving us at the end of this half term.

Helen is currently studying for her MSc and is therefore leaving to enable her to focus on her course and studies. Helen has been at Stimpson since September 2012 and she will be greatly missed by staff, parents, carers and of course the children.

Attendance and Punctuality Matters



18 OR MORE DAYS

- Excused and unexcused absences represent lost time in the classroom and lost opportunities to learn.
- Missing just one day every two weeks can add up to 18 days in a year. Absences add up before you even know it.



10 TO 17 DAYS

- Students who are absent an average of 15 days a year miss a year's worth of school before their senior year.
- When students miss a day of school it actually puts them two days behind their classmates.



9 OR FEWER ABSENCES

- Students with good attendance generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more.
- Children benefit and make the most of their educational opportunities if they attend school regularly and on time.

In my earlier newsletter, I reported that our attendance figure was **95.92%** which was broadly in line with National Average but lower than our target of 96.5%. I also appealed for your support to increase this and I am really pleased to inform you that our current attendance has now **increased to 96.8%** which is higher than the National average and higher than our target! Thank you so much for your help on reaching this figure as obviously if children are not in school they are missing out on so much learning. Please can I remind you that holiday is not permitted during school time and this will be unauthorised.

Punctuality continues to be a target for improvement. Please ensure your child arrives promptly in school; it is so important they do not miss valuable learning time and additionally, interrupt the learning of others when they arrive. English and Maths lessons commence promptly at 9.00 am so **it is imperative 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.** If your child arrives late at school, you will be given a slip to inform you they were late. Parents/Carers of those children who are persistently late will be contacted directly by the school office and a letter will be sent home with follow up actions as appropriate. 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 – Child Friendly Search Engines

Search engines can be half the problem with the internet. The following search engines are completely safe for your children and do not bring up inappropriate pages. You can also set them as your homepage!

Kidrex.org

Safesearchkids.com

Wisekids.org.uk

Swiggle.org.uk

Gogooligans.com

Searchypants.com



Safeguarding

Safeguarding at Stimpson Avenue Academy is paramount. If you are ever concerned about the safety of your child or any other children at Stimpson please always discuss this with us. If you have any concerns about any child at Stimpson, no matter how small, please contact one of the people listed below.

The designated safeguarding officers at the school are:

Kimberley Kemp (Head of School)
Mia Lewis (Assistant Principal)
Amanda Baker (Assistant Principal)
Tina Berlingieri (Family Support Worker)
Abi Scott (Senior Leadership Team)
Duncan Mills (Stimpson EMLC chair)



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 whom to contact and what you can do if you have any concerns about the safety of your own child or that of another child.

Additionally, I would really appreciate it if you could remind your children about stranger danger, and 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 have 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 after school, please provide written permission.

Thank you for your support in such a crucial matter.

Extra-curricular clubs

I am thrilled with the increasing number of clubs on offer to the children and that we have such keen support for them. The more popular they are, the more we can continue with them and increase the variety on offer. There are now 10 more clubs on offer this half term compared to the summer term and the aim is for these to continue to grow and grow! If any parents or carers have any particular skills for example, art, music, sport, cooking, sewing or singing, and would like to share these with the children you would be warmly welcomed. This could be a one off or a club which runs over a number of weeks. Please contact me if you would be able to contribute in any way to enrich our children's lives. Thank you.

Guildhall Visit

After the success of last year's student council meeting with Danielle Stone, our local councillor, we had an amazing opportunity for some of our Year 6 children to visit The Guildhall and hold a 'live debate' about whether the voting age should be lowered to 16 years. The Year 6 children entered a competition sharing their view points on this debate and the winners were then selected according to the most effective presentations. Twenty lucky winners took part in the visit to The Guildhall where they enjoyed a debate in the chambers, holding the Mace and receiving a badge - and the cookies went down rather well too! A massive thank you to Danielle Stone, who provided our school with such a special opportunity.

Maths Parental Workshops

On Thursday, 29th September, we held mathematical workshops across the school so parents/carers could learn about the methods and strategies the children are taught in school. It was great to see so many of you attend and I really hope you found it useful to help you to support your child at home.



Thoroughly Thrilling Thursday

What a brilliant turn out by you all – thank you! It was lovely to see the joy on the children’s faces as they took part in such creative activities as making smoothies, clay hedgehogs, board games, etc and also the enjoyment they had from sharing these fun times with their parents and carers. Mind you, there were definitely times where you seemed to be enjoying making the items as much, as if not more, than the children!



I have to give a special mention to the Year 6 children as they were incredible. They all had a special role on the day including escorting you all to the right classrooms or supporting the younger children. How polite, helpful and supportive they were – I was so proud of them and it was great to see them blossoming as leaders of the school. Thank you Year 6.



Class assemblies

As always, the children performed really well in their class assemblies. Both Miss Felton's class and Mrs Mill's class celebrated their work and learning during their class assemblies and spoke out so admirably and confidently. I always marvel at how such young children perform so confidently in front of an audience when many adults would find this difficult. Well done to all the children who took part.



Halloween disco

What fun was had by all! The turn out was fantastic and the children, or should I say monsters, witches and ghouls, absolutely loved it. Helping Hands truly do make such a difference to our children's lives. Thank you to so many of you who showed your support and gave your help on the night. I know it is really appreciated. However, without more volunteers on the committee to help prepare for these events, Helping Hands **will not be able to continue**. Please, please consider if you could dedicate some time to join Helping Hands. School life without Helping Hands would be such a disappointment as they really do so much for all the children. Please contact Carrie Jamieson if you would like to become a member of Helping Hands to ensure it can continue.

Harvest Celebrations

On Wednesday 19th October, Reverend Wiseman and Lucy Dunlop kindly held an assembly to remind all our children of the importance of harvest and how others are not as always as fortunate as us. They shared the story of the 'Stone Soup' to help children understand the importance of sharing and how this can make such a difference to the lives of others. A massive thank you to not only Reverend Wiseman and Lucy Dunlop, also to all of you for your kind and generous donations. They have all been donated to the Hope Centre to support the local community.

Additionally, on Thursday 20th October, Nursery, Reception and Year One children all visited Christ Church where they saw their food donations on display and enjoyed a harvest festival celebration led by Reverend Wiseman in a local church. They had a brilliant time and all the children benefitted hugely from their visit. Thanks again to Reverend Wiseman and Lucy Dunlop for making this visit possible.



Well I am sure you will agree this half term has certainly been a full and fun one. Please may I remind you that the children's happiness really is the most important thing of all and therefore if you have any concerns, no matter how small, please always come in and discuss this with us. I wish you all a lovely half term and look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 1st November.

Warm wishes,

Kim Kemp

Kimberley 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 yourself 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.

Car Parking

Please may I remind all parents and carers collecting their children from school to ensure they always park in permitted areas and always show respect for the local community. This includes **not parking on the double lines - even to drop children off**. The links we have with our community are vital and it is therefore really important we do not park in private car parks or on restricted areas, including yellow lines. This is also for the safety of everyone.

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 (possibility of this being swapped with the polling day)



Stimpson Key School Improvement Plan (SIP) Targets.

Overarching Targets: 2016 to 2017.

Overall Effectiveness:

- ❖ T & L that is consistently good or outstanding leading to at least good progress in all areas of the curriculum for all vulnerable groups, including the disadvantaged.

Whole school particular focus upon:

- Reading and Maths subject areas
- Disadvantaged for the vulnerable groups

- ❖ For a smooth and effective transition of the new Principal to ensure continued momentum and drive for rapid and sustained improvement to be embedded.

Leadership and Management

To implement clear succession plan demonstrating long term capacity ensuring the drive and pace for rapid and sustained improvement are maintained.

Highly effective and pertinent career professional development for all members of staff impacting positively on standards and outcomes for all pupils.

A balanced and effective budget with a clear focus on improving and ensuring high quality standards of education for all pupils.

Leadership at all levels embedded across the school with clear lines of responsibility and accountability driving improvement.

AIB providing support and challenge consistently driving improving educational standards.

Teaching and Learning and Assessment:

Consistently high quality teaching resulting in good or outstanding standards and progress across the curriculum for all groups of pupils, including disadvantaged.

Whole school particular focus upon:

- Reading and Maths subject areas
- Disadvantaged for the vulnerable groups
- ICT being embedded within all curriculum areas

Pupils demonstrating active and positive participation in all areas of school life including exhibiting positive learning behaviours.

Effective, timely and informative use of assessment consistently used to drive and improve standards.

Whole school particular focus upon:

- CPD and monitoring to support further enhancing teacher assessment accuracy across all subjects for the whole school.

All stakeholders actively involved in supporting the provision of high quality education ultimately raising pupil progress and standards.

Assessment to consistently and effectively used to adapt teacher's planning and used to inform subsequent teaching.

CPD is effectively supporting and developing all staff members to drive raising standards and ensuring high quality education for all.