



Stimpson Avenue Academy
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Principal: Mrs J Milton

31st March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers



SPRING 2 NEWSLETTER

| TERM 5 | EVENT | DATE | |
|--------|--|-----------|---------------|
| | Principal's Coffee Morning | Friday | 28 April 2017 |
| | Bank Holiday – School Closed | Monday | 1 May 2017 |
| | Local Elections - School Closed (Polling Station) | Thursday | 4 May 2017 |
| | SATs Week – Year 6 | Mon-Thurs | 8-11 May 2017 |

Summer Half Term: Close Friday, 26 May 2017 – Re-open to pupils Monday, 5 June 2017

Finally, some sunshine, heralding spring and the approaching summer term. Although a short half term, it has been jam packed full of fun and exciting events – World Book Day where we raised an amazing £393, The Scholastic Book Fair and the Helping Hands discos. I hope your child has enjoyed this half term and they are proud of all their amazing achievements.

Parents' Evenings

The feedback from teachers during parent consultations was very positive about how well our pupils are doing, our relationship with parents and carers and the new location of the consultations in the hall. Thank 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. I am happy to say that Miss Edwards has now returned to work and will be carrying out Parent Consultations for the Emerald Butterflies Parents and Carers during the weeks beginning 8th May and 15th May. Further details to follow. In the meantime if you wish to speak to her, you can arrange an appointment.

Red Nose Day

In conjunction with Helping Hands selling 240 Red Noses (which raised £144) and the staff and pupils wearing slippers at school we raised an amazing total of £343.08 for Red Nose Day, a very worthy cause.



Parent/Carer Questionnaire

Thank you for completing the Parents and Carers questionnaire, the comments were positive and fair. The main comments were that:

- parents feel that their children are happy, are encouraged to be independent and that lessons are enjoyable.
- the academy is good at settling children and children are generally taught well.
- the academy needs to listen carefully to the views of parents and ensure that the work of the AIB (Academy Improvement Board) is better understood.
- leadership needs to become more stable.

We take your comments very seriously and they will inform not only the day to day running of the school but future action plans and school improvement plans. A more detailed letter will be sent after Easter.

Section 5 Ofsted Inspection

We were inspected by three Inspectors for two days last week. No stone was left unturned. I have received initial feedback but we will not receive the report until after Easter. You will receive a copy as soon as it is available. However, what I can say is that the pupils of Stimpson Avenue Academy were amazing and the Inspectors commented upon their excellent behaviour and manners. I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and commitment during the inspection as well as everyday life at the academy.

Helping Hands

As previously mentioned Helping Hands organised two very well supported discos. With your generous support they raised an impressive £628, which will go towards upgrading our library and outside area.

I will be holding a Principal's Coffee Morning with refreshments organised by Helping Hands on **Friday 28th April at 9.00 am in the hall**. This will be a great opportunity to meet as many of you as possible and to discuss future projects and ideas with the Helping Hands Committee.



Future Helping Hands events are Key Stage 1 Film Night on 26th April at 4.00 pm followed by the Quiz Night on 5th May. There will be a Key Stage 2 Film Night on 24th May 2017. Proceeds from both events will go towards upgrading our library and outside environment.

Outdoor Environment – G.R.A.S.S.



Helping Hands continue to provide invaluable support to improve the school for everyone. Work to improve the outside area will continue in the Easter holidays. You have hopefully seen my letter requesting support for 3rd, 4th and 5th April. It would be wonderful to see as many people as possible to prepare and upgrade our garden for the Summer. Children are welcome but they remain the responsibility of their parent or carer. If you have not signed up but would like to support even in a small way, please email Helping Hands at the following email address stimpsonhelpinghands@outlook.com.

Colin Slater

Today I met with artist Colin Slater, who I have worked with many times at my previous schools. We discussed future mural projects for around the school, including the library, Early Years and the Year 5 and 6 areas. I am delighted to announce that he will begin in the summer term by painting the walls in the playground next to the garden. You can find out more about Colin by visiting his website http://www.colin Slater-artist.co.uk/CS/A_Bigger_Picture.html.

The Library



The library is in the process of being upgraded and updated with new books, furniture and environment. In order to audit our range and thus be able to purchase new books may I ask that all books are returned to the academy for a stock check. We are also in need of a parent librarian who would support in keeping our library well-maintained and exciting for our pupils. If you would be interested in this voluntary role, please contact the office or myself.

Staff Hello and Goodbye

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Foundation Stage teacher, Mrs Singh, who will be leaving us to have her first baby and begin the exciting next step in her family's life. We also say a fond farewell to Mrs Jackson, who will be retiring after 12 years of loyal service. Finally, we say "au revoir" to Mrs Kingdom, who will be leaving us for her long overdue 'Gap year'. We hope to see her again in the future, perhaps. We say hello to Mr Au and Mrs Karsan who have joined us as Teaching Assistants. We hope they will be very happy here.

SATs



Please remember that the Key Stage 2 SATs take place during week commencing Monday 8th May. The SATs occur nationally throughout this week and all Year 6 children have to take their tests during this period 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 that 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 Key Stage 1 SATs also take place next half term and they will start from Monday 15 May. Again, it is really important that 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 the tests. If they are, please contact the school so we can ensure this stress or anxiety does not continue.

Wrap Around Care

It has always been my intention to bring the Breakfast Club and After School Club in-house at Stimpson Avenue Academy. Following research and development meetings, I am delighted to inform you that from Summer Term 2, we will be hosting our own wrap around care which will be led by Mrs Mills, our Year 4 teacher and run by staff at the academy. More details about both provisions will be sent to you after the Easter break. I would like to thank Gr8 Kids for all their hard work and we look forward to our own new provision at Stimpson Avenue Academy.

Term Dates



A reminder that the school is **closed** from **Friday 31 March** for the start of the Easter holiday and will **re-open** to pupils on **Wednesday 19th April** as there is a Teaching Training Day on Tuesday 18th April and the school will not be open to the children.

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 vital 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 the safety of all of our children at risk. Thank you.

Sainsbury's Active Kids 2017 Vouchers

Just a reminder that the deadline for collecting vouchers is 2 May 2017. Thank you for filling up the box in the entrance hall.



My first of many terms at Stimpson Avenue Academy is now over. It has been exciting, rewarding and exhausting. Thank you for making me feel at home so quickly. We look forward to what next term has in store.

I would like to wish you all a fun-filled yet safe Easter holiday. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Milton

Mrs Milton
Principal