

Newsletter 2 – autumn 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I feel like I have blinked and winter is here already. With winter, comes Christmas and all the fun of the festive holidays. We are already starting preparations for the Christmas Fair and performances. Please see the Diary Dates attached to help you be organised with all the festive activities we have planned.

Ofsted

As you know, we were visited by Ofsted last term. We are still waiting for our report to be published and as soon as it is, we will be able to send copies home with the children.

Bad Language

I have thought long and hard about adding this to our newsletter, however it is something I feel so strongly about that I cannot ignore it. We have had a spike in incidents of children swearing in school lately and so we have introduced a “Book of Bad Language,” which will be kept in my office. If a child uses swear words or rude language, their name, the date and the word will be recorded in the book. This will be their warning and a letter will be sent to their parents, notifying them of the bad language used in school. Any further incidents will also be logged in the book and then parents will be invited into school to speak to me and the child about the importance of showing respect when speaking to someone – which is one of our school core values.

My problem is, that I know that many parents swear in front of their children on a regular basis and this is their choice. I have heard it for myself and have even heard a parent swearing in church at the Harvest festival. I understand that it is not the child’s fault if they are exposed to these words at home and I cannot enforce parents to not do this, but parents must realise that if they do, and their child repeats it at school, then their child will lose a green day and could possibly miss their Green Day treat.

My other problem is, parents who don’t swear at home are naturally upset when their children come home repeating words that they have chosen not to say in front of their child and that is not acceptable.

So, I’m reaching out to parents to think about the consequences of using swear words where their children are, consider the impact it has on their child, other children and the values of our school and perhaps try and not to do it in earshot of the children. Thank you

Parking

As always, parking is a nightmare outside our school. I know the traffic enforcement team have been monitoring the situation and handing out tickets and the police have been taking video evidence. I will continue to push the council to send Traffic Wardens to hand out parking tickets. I realise this is unpopular, but until certain repeat offenders get the message, then I do not intend to stop. I’m afraid the safety of our children is far more important than parents getting as close to the school gates as they possibly can. Thank you, as always, to those parents who take the sensible decision to park safely and legally along St. Andrew’s Road and walk the short distance to school.

School Tests

Just a reminder of dates for pupil’s statutory tests during the summer term. We ask that parents do not book holidays during these specific times, if their child is in the following year groups.

Early Years – End of reception “Good Level of Development” assessments – during May and June 2020.

Year One Phonics Screening Test – Week Commencing 8th June 2020

Year Two – End of Key Stage One SAT tests – May 2020

Year Four – Multiplication Screening Test – Week Commencing 8th June 2020 (**NEW TEST**)

Year Six – End of Key Stage Two SAT tests – Monday 11th to Thursday 14th May 2020

We hope to deliver some parents meetings about these tests, so that parents are better informed about how they are organised and how they can support their child best. More information to follow.

Staffing

You may have noticed that I haven't been on the gate very much lately. I am currently teaching in Class 3 until Mrs Foggini returns before Christmas. I do try to get out as much as I can but I'm sure you'll all appreciate that wearing two hats, a teacher's and a headteacher's, can be very busy for me. If you do need to see me for anything, please call the office to make an appointment, I am still around!

Also, Mrs Castledine has been off school poorly for a while and will be for at least another two weeks, so she too has been missing from the gate welcoming the children in. We have a supply teacher in Reception (Mrs Jones), at the moment, who is doing a great job. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Mrs Castledine a speedy recovery.

Parents Evenings

Next week we are hosting our Autumn parents evenings. Please can we ask parents to arrive ten minutes early so you will have time to look at your child's books. We will have staff in the hall to supervise the children whilst parents are speaking to teachers, however, can I ask parents to ensure their children behave appropriately in their care and do not run around the hall.

We will be having a flash sale of end of line school uniform, on both nights, where you can pick up a bargain. We are currently changing suppliers to a more affordable company, so there will be extra pennies in your pocket. We need to move on our existing stock before we start though, so please have a look and see if there is anything you need.

Healthy Teeth

On the first day back after Christmas we are holding another of our Curriculum Collapse day. The whole school will be learning about the importance of Healthy Teeth and how to look after our teeth. All children will come home with a toothbrush and toothpaste and will know how to make sure their teeth are brushed properly. As part of our drive to promote children's health and wellbeing, we are will also be banning soft drinks in packed lunches, from January 2020. Did you know there are 5 teaspoons in a Fruit Shoot? Instead we will provide a cup of water to all packed lunch children. This change will benefit everyone;

1. It will cut down on single use plastics – so the environments wins.
2. It will save parents money – so you win.
3. It will reduce decay on children's teeth – so the children win.

It's a win, win situation. I do hope we have support from parents on this one. We will be providing parents with more information on healthy teeth, following our dental day.

I'm sure I will see many of you during the festive celebrations!

Yours sincerely

Mrs N James

Headteacher