

Not sure what this is?

Ask your child

about:

STOP IT

PLEASE!



April/May 2017

“We want to unlock the learning potential of every child in our school, remove any barriers to learning and offer every child opportunities to develop the skills they need for a happy and successful life”

Newsletter

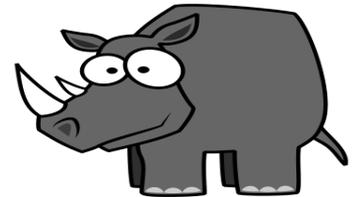
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Dear Parents

Attached to this newsletter is a letter from the Chair of Governors regarding the recent parent questionnaire. Thank you to all those parents who took time to complete the paperwork. It is important for us to hear some other viewpoints although no matter what systems we have in place they will never satisfy everybody. What we try and do is look at the children's needs above all else and see what we can put in place in order to achieve the best outcomes. Inevitably there will be times where a compromise is unavoidable which is probably why I have developed such an extremely thick skin.

David Skelcher, Headmaster



School Council

Our school council have been working hard and coming up with a range of ideas. As a result of their efforts, the school has been awarded a bronze ECO award and the sponsored walk that they organised this week has raised over £1,000.00 so far which the school will use to buy recycling bins for classrooms and the school. Not only that, they even managed to rustle up perfect weather for the day. Please bring in any more sponsor money by 9th June.

Post-Ofsted Attendance

Latest figure is 95.98% So close to our target of 96% but not quite there. Please keep this in mind if your child is off school for any reason.

Remember:

***Monday 5th June 2017 is a teacher training day.
School will re-open on Tuesday 6th June.***

Choir Concert

Once again the choir sang with members of the Stratford Festival Orchestra on Monday evening. There is something so special about live music and singing - a real treat for the enthusiastic audience of around 150. The smiles and applause in the hall said it all - it was amazing as the children sang their hearts out and filled the room with a true sense of joy!

Sports

As a school we are still building our prowess in sports and I want to say thank you to all those children who are striving to get a place in one of the sports teams and also to those parents who are regularly transporting children to and from different venues. We have seen a bit more success recently as our netball team has notched up an impressive victory and our Year 3/4 football team were runners up in their most recent competition. We will do our very best to keep improving and become a force to be reckoned with!

Governors' Visits

In recent months, as part of the ongoing training for governors, they have all taken part in "learning walks" around school to give them a more precise picture of what is going on at the sharp end and to support them in the way they can hold the school to account.

Safeguarding

As the school grows, then we need to make sure that our capacity for keeping the children safe also improves. Currently, Mr Skelcher is the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) and coordinates any safeguarding information/issues across the school. In the Autumn term, Mrs Hopkins will also undertake the DSL training. We use a "green form" system in school to record any details about incidents or concerns raised by children. These can be filled in by any member of staff and are passed on to the DSL for information and further action if necessary.

On rare occasions we may have to refer a family directly to the Social Services or police which obviously can be very distressing for all concerned however if we have reason to believe that a child may be in danger, we will always err on the side of caution and take action as part of our duty of care.

SATs

All done, once again and now all we can do is wait. The children have put their heart and soul into doing their best and we would like to think that their efforts have been rewarded.

Assessing and Monitoring

We continue to review and refine our internal assessment scheme to ensure that we are as accurate as possible. For September, there will be some adjustments in place for our maths targets to help all children work at a greater depth. Even though we are consistently working above national average we are always seeking ways to improve that. Our half-termly data helps us to make sure that any children who may need some extra support, are being catered for in the best possible way and we will always bring in external experts if needed.

Cygnets News

We had a very exciting visit from a Fire Engine and two Firemen; they let us borrow their special fire engine activity box full of information, pictures and books. We had fire fighters tunics and helmets to try on and a pop up fire engine tent to play in. They also gave us activity ideas to help the children learn about fire safety in a fun and interactive way and we watched Fireman Sam as a special treat! We have more fun activities planned for half term week, for information about our holiday club please call us on 01789 721161.



Extra Books for Reading

We are working closely with the school library service to try and increase the variety of suitable books in the school library. We already have a great selection and there is no doubt that the amount of reading for pleasure has increased since our Reading Evening and also since we introduced a mini-library of specially selected books into each classroom. We now plan to develop that further by tailoring a package based on our school's specific needs.

New Parents in Early Years

New parents and children have been making the most of the open mornings in Nursery and Reception to see what September holds in-store. It's all looking good so far!

Guide Dogs Too

All of Early Years enjoyed a visit from the Guide Dogs. Everyone was extremely well-behaved, but the dogs were the stars!

Changes in the Kitchen

Mrs Palin (formerly Mrs Proctor) has decided to move on after being our super cook for seven years. We wish her all the best and await the appointment of a new cook

Grumbles:

1) Keeping Safe in the Playground

At the end of the day, the playground is a busy place. Please do not let children ride around on bikes/scooters etc. or generally run riot.

2) Behaviour towards Office Staff

Please be civil - it's not difficult and we have a zero tolerance policy towards any form of staff abuse.

QPA

Year 6, 5, 3, Reception and Nursery have all been on trips so far this year - our ongoing **THANKS** to the QPA for continuing to fund the transport costs. Year 1, 2 and 4 have trips in the summer term.

It doesn't cost anything to smile!