

Having a problem in school? Don't forget, you can use:

STOP IT PLEASE!



“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

Now that the new curriculum is becoming more established it is clear just how much higher the expectations are for the children across the country. On a daily basis, children are being challenged to work at ever higher levels. For every child to achieve to the best of their ability, we need to make sure that they are not afraid to “have a go” and that it is okay to make a mistake which may need support to be rectified. The willingness to be as independent as possible and develop a resilient approach to whatever they attempt is a vital life skill, to ensure success both now and in the future. Don't be afraid to let go!

David Skelcher, Headmaster

Staffing Update

Mrs Gibson has given birth to a healthy baby daughter.

Mrs Furlow, who spent some time in school before Christmas has settled into Year 3.

Mrs Lucas has replaced Mrs Lancashire as a teaching assistant (Monday – Thursday a.m.) as well as becoming an extra lunchtime supervisor.

Mrs Edwards, our maths specialist teacher will now be working in school for two mornings per week. The second session will be focused on Year 1 and 2;

Mrs Woollard is a new part-time teaching assistant with a maths background (Mon – Fri a.m.)

Mr Pennington, our caretaker, is still recovering from illness and our temporary caretaker – Mr Hobkirk – is very happy (so he tells me!) to stay on a bit longer.

On 4th January, our teacher day included first aid training for all staff.

Every year, all the teaching staff are judged through the performance management process where they have to achieve a set of targets that have been set in the previous year. This is carried out by the head for all class teachers and by Trevor Davies and the chair of governors for the head. These all took place before Christmas and were very positive.

Governors' Update

A crucial part of any school is having a board of governors which understands how the school works and can challenge the head. In order to achieve this, two sub-committees have been set up to help further the ability of the governors to dig a little deeper and with more purpose.

The Day The Crayons Quit - Literacy Week

Following the success of our Penguin week last year, which was maths-based, we started this one off with a super literacy-themed week based on the book “The Day The Crayons Quit”. The children really got into it, highly motivated and excited about what they achieved and it is quite remarkable how inspirational wax crayons can be - they certainly go through the mill! There was a lot of focus on feelings, developing relationships and how we treat each other. One even sent us a postcard from space, having sneaked into Tim Peake's pocket before he blasted off!

Police Visit Year 1

Just before Christmas, the police paid a visit to Yr1 because of the Naughty Bus and to try and restore some order. I hear that it was very successful and everything is now back under control!

The school has a good working relationship with the local police so if you see or hear anything that you feel needs looking into but don't know who to ask, tell us at school and we will happily pass it on to help keep our community as safe as possible.

Consortium Training

Through training organised by our consortium, staff have been brought up to date with the new end of year expectations. The training helped to reassure us that we seem to be as well-organised as anyone can be during this transition phase.

Christmas Concerts

I know it seems like ages ago but I would like to thank all those parents, family and friends who supported the school. It was the first time that we have had to have strict ticket only performances due to our increasing numbers and I really appreciate your co-operation. From our point of view it went very smoothly. Please let us know if there is anything we could have done better. I am sure you will all agree that the children were amazing!

Some reminders : see below ...

Holidays in School Time

Unauthorised holidays in term-time will be referred to the Local Authority which may lead to a fine. Latest attendance is 96.2% - the best figure we have had for some time - brilliant!

Contact Numbers/Medical Information

Make sure that Mrs Maxwell has up to date information if your child has any kind of allergy/illness that may have an impact on school. If you are not signed up to Parent-mail, please do so and keep contact numbers up to date.

Administering Medicine in School

School staff may administer medicine that has been prescribed by a doctor (and is up to date). The school will require a signed consent form which can be completed at the school office with Mrs Maxwell.

Cygnets

At Cygnets it has been a very busy start to the New Year with lots of new faces joining us. We have been wrapping up warm exploring outside at Forest School and getting out and about on winter walks watching the early signs of spring popping up everywhere. February half term will soon be here and we have some fun activities planned for the holiday club. For information please call us on 01789 721161.



Sport

To the brave souls who have turned out for the recent cross country events - THANK YOU! We had a team of Yr5 and Yr6 children compete in an indoor athletics competition this week at Shipston High. They all put in a huge amount of effort and came 4th overall.

Trevor Davies

During a day in school, TD scrutinised our assessment and tracking systems as well as the work in the children's books and confirmed that our standards are consistently at least good - the standard of teaching, the amount of work and the quality of the marking were real strengths and he feels that we are in a strong position with a potential Ofsted due in the summer term. We also updated the school SEF (School Evaluation Form) and the LIP (Learning Improvement Plan) which helps staff focus on key areas for improvement.

Computing Connections

We have recently linked up with KES in Stratford, who are offering free training and materials to local primary schools, to help develop our Computing expertise in school. Mrs Hopkins is leading this programme.