



Aiming High, Achieving Together

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Newsletter 3 – 2nd November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back. We trust that you all had a lovely half term. This is usually the busiest half term especially with Christmas fast approaching. Please continue to check your child's book bag and the school website for relevant information.

Special Relative Day

It was lovely to see so many relatives on our first Special Relative Day last half term. The children were so excited sharing their books, work and classroom. We look forward to hosting the next one on 24th March 2023.

Applying for a Junior School Place/YR Place for September 2023

Y2 parents will now be able to apply for a Y3 place at junior school next September. Parents should apply online at: <http://www.hants.gov.uk/admissions>. If you have difficulty applying online please come to the school office and ask for a paper form. **The closing date for applications is Sunday 15 January 2023.** It is important that you apply by the closing date otherwise you may have difficulty securing a junior school place as all on-time applications will be considered before any late applications.

Similarly, if you have a child who will be turning 4 years old by 31 August 2023 and is due to start school in YR next September, you must apply (preferably online) **by the closing date of 15 January 2023.**

Attendance

Attendance for the last half term was 93.3%. Government expectation is that attendance should be 96% or above. A lot of absences were due to illness, particularly chickenpox, which has appeared early this academic year (the peak time is usually between Christmas and Easter). YR in particular have had a lot of illness, which is to be expected as YR children are building up their immunity when starting school. On that note, It is important to send your child to school as much as possible so that they can build up their immunity to illnesses. If your child has a temperature we would advise that you give them Calpol and if they are otherwise well send them into school.

However, there have been an increasing number of requests for leave of absence during term time. The DFE regulations stipulate that **Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless it is for a rare, significant or unavoidable situation.** We would ask parents to refrain from booking **holidays during term time** as these **will not be authorised**, unless they are due to exceptional circumstances. **If your child accrues 10 or more sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence within a 10 week period you may be issued with a penalty notice, which entails a fine of £60 per parent per child**, or parents may be referred to the local authority's attendance legal panel, who may take legal action. Good attendance at school is important because statistics show a direct link between under-achievement and absence below 96%. Regular attenders make better progress both socially and academically. Absence for any reason disadvantages a child by creating gaps in their learning and can affect their friendship groups, making them unsettled when they are in school.

School regularly monitors attendance and absences may be unauthorised if the school is unable to ascertain the reasons for absence or is not satisfied with the reasons given. If the school is concerned about your child's attendance you may be called in to school to discuss the concerns and any support that may be needed. Please support the school in improving attendance and enabling your child to achieve their full potential.

Headteacher: Mrs Larissa James BA (QTS) NPQH



Local Authority Visits

In our relentless aim to monitor and improve the quality of education in school, we have commissioned two local authority advisors to visit this half term. One will be auditing our Safeguarding practices and procedures on Friday 4th November and the other will review our teaching and learning of English on Monday 7th November. Both advisors will talk to the children, staff and Governors including a review of documentation.

Safeguarding Week

The National Anti-Bullying Week is the week of 14th - 18th November. We will explore many themes that week e.g. e-Safety, Anti-Bullying, NSPCC PANTS rule, Road Safety and the safe use of medicines. Please visit our website and access the Safeguarding page to view links to support you and your child's knowledge and understanding about keeping safe.

Governors

The school's Governing Body is looking for additional members. We are particularly looking for people with experience of finance, IT and human resources. We meet three times per year and our Resources Committee meets every half term for an hour. We also participate in three Governor Monitoring Days per year. It is a very rewarding role in developing our school priority areas. Please see the school office for an application form.

Smoking

Please could we remind parents who smoke not to block the entrances/exits to the school at the beginning and end of the school day, as it is unpleasant for non-smoking families to walk through.

Staffing

We currently have a vacancy for two cleaners. The hours are 3.30 - 6.00pm Monday to Friday and additional cleaning in the school holidays. If you are interested please contact the office for an application form.

Key Dates

3rd November - Halloween Disco (YR & Y1 3.30 - 4.15pm Y2 4.15 - 5.00pm)
4th November - Safeguarding Audit
7th November - English Advisor Visit
14th - 18th November - Safeguarding week
18th November - Children in Need Dress-Up for £1.00 (children to wear something spotty)
22nd November - Governor Monitoring Day
24th November - Family Photos (separate letter coming out)
28th November - INSET: school closed
1st December - Christmas Movie Night (details to follow)
2nd December - Christingle Assembly at St. Bede's Church at 10.30am
5th December - Christmas Panto
7th December - Clubs finish (Art, Board Games, Choir and Gardening Club)
8th December - 9.30am YR Christmas Play
9th December - 2.00pm YR Christmas Play
12th December - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
13th December - 2.00pm Y1&2 Christmas Play
14th December - 9.30am Y1&2 Christmas Play
15th December - 5.00pm Y1&2 Christmas Play
16th December - Break Up at 3.15pm & Father Christmas Visit
3rd January - School starts at 8.45am (this is a Tuesday)

Yours Sincerely,



Larissa James
Headteacher