



Autumn Term 1 Newsletter

Friday 23rd October 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

It is difficult to believe that we are already at the end of an exceptionally busy first Autumn Term! The children are working really hard and we are particularly proud of our new Reception children who have settled into school beautifully!

School Improvement Plans for 2015-16

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you our main curriculum priorities this year which include:

- To further improve the provision in and the management of EYFS.
- To further improve the attainment of boys in reading and writing.
- To fully embed the 2014 National Curriculum.
- To maintain improved standards in KS1 mathematics.
- To embed a robust and effective 'assessing without levels' assessment system.
- To further develop the level of opportunity for children to participate in sport.

In addition to this, you may also be aware that there are a number of development plans in place for the physical environment of the school this year including;

- School house garden - where we are developing a new EYFS outdoor learning area.
- The school office and reception is moving to what was the old library.
- The school library has moved into the school house and will be re-launched at Christmas.
- The school kitchen will either be renovated or replaced – see detail below.

Over the year, I will keep you updated on our continual improvement plans and hope that you will fully support our school community in continuing to raise standards.

Autumn Term 2 Calendar

November	Monday 2 nd	INSET DAY
	Friday 6 th	Foodbank Friday
	Wednesday 11 th	Author visit Parent Consultation Evening
	Thursday 12 th	Parent Consultation Evening
	Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th	Anti-bullying Week
	Tuesday 17 th	BAGS2SCHOOLS collection
	Friday 13 th	Children in Need Dress up day & photos for school calendar
	Friday 27 th	Parents meeting for those interested in children learning brass or woodwind instrument – more details to follow.
December	Monday 7 th	KS1 Dress rehearsal
	Tuesday 8 th	KS1 performance
	Wednesday 9 th	KS1 performance
	Thursday 10 th	Reception & Nursery performance pm
	Friday 11 th	Reception & Nursery performance am
	Monday 14 th	Y5/6 party
	Tuesday 15 th	Y3/4 party
	Wednesday 16 th	Y1/2 party Pantomime
	Thursday 17 th	Reception/Nursery party Disco
	Friday 18 th	Non- uniform day
	Friday 18th – Monday Jan 4th	CHRISTMAS BREAK

Uniform

As you may be aware, we are currently reviewing our school branding and details of this will be issued to you after the half term break. We are changing our school logo, however please be reassured that there is no expectation that uniform bearing the new school logo will be required immediately – I expect a period of transition where we will have children wearing uniform bearing both logos – the old being replaced with the new as new uniform is required/purchased. There is no expectation that children wear branded uniform and I would like to remind you that the winter uniform consists of;

- Gold polo shirt
- Bottle green jumper or cardigan
- Grey skirt or trousers
- Grey, green or black tights or socks for girls
- Black or grey socks for boys
- Black shoes or black sensible boots

Where possible, please send children with long hair tied back or with a bobble to tie hair back ready for PE. Whilst we would prefer children not to wear jewellery to school (other than a watch), if your child wears stud earrings, please ensure that they are able to remove them themselves so that they can remove them for PE as we are unable to assist children with this.

Building News

The kitchen saga continues! I attended a meeting earlier this week to establish a clear plan to either renovate or replace the existing kitchen building. As you are aware, our kitchen staff are currently cooking off site and the school meals are being transported to school every day. Clearly this is not an ideal situation and becomes of increasing concern during the forthcoming winter months. After half term, it is planned that our kitchen staff will return to cook at school and this should then continue until just before we break for Easter 2016. I would like to reiterate that this disruption has not been the fault of our kitchen staff or school – it is purely down to changes within planning at County Council level. Furthermore, I would like to thank our kitchen staff for their patience during this very demanding time.

Work is going well on the new entrance and school office and we are hopeful that this will be completed ready for the beginning of Spring Term 3 – January 2016.

Staff News

Mrs Beatson will be joining us on Thursday 5th November in Class 2. We would like to thank Mrs Walden for covering this two day post over the Autumn Term.

School Clubs

Once again, I have encouraged our Y6 children to run clubs for the younger children in school which this term have included: tag rugby, biscuit decorating, drama, 'chill out', games clubs to name a few! Other lunchtime clubs have included handbells, football and choir.

After half term, after school clubs will run as follows:

Monday		Tuesday		Thursday	
Dance Miss Crowder	Year 1 and 2	Code It Club Mrs Hallsworth Mr Hardwick Mrs Miller	Year 6	Tag Rugby Qualitas	All
Cooking Club Miss Crowder	Year 4	Engineering Club Mrs Ludlow	Year 5		
Make it, Break it Club Mrs Rodda	Year 1 and 2				

Children's News

Our school choir worked really hard leading up to the concert at the Winding Wheel last Thursday and were a credit to the school as they performed alongside two hundred and twenty other children in front of an audience of 600 people. It was an amazing event and I was really proud of all the girls.

Approximately 170 children took part in the Go Run for Fun at Mount St Mary's School earlier this month. The event was attended by nearly 700 children across the region from Reception to Y6. It was an incredible sight seeing them wearing their pink t-shirts! If you would like to see images from the event, please visit <http://gorunforfun.com/events/galleries/view-event-gallery/?id=3950>.

The football teams have got the season off to a cracking start and are looking forward to a busy second half of the Autumn Term.

Congratulations go to Adam Matthews (Y6), Ben Hughes (Y5) and Sam Boulby (Y5) who have all been selected to be part of the 2015-16 Shooting Stars Programme – a great achievement!

Mrs Bytheway and Mrs Whetton were thrilled with the result of the recent cross country competition which, having been in second or third place for the last few years, we finally won! There were some incredible individual performances with Isabelle Atrill (Y4) winning Bronze, George Willmot (Y6) winning Silver and Danny Bainbridge (Y4) winning Gold medals, but the entire team are to be congratulated on this success and I thank Mrs Bytheway and Mrs Whetton for organising the team for this enjoyable event.

We have another very exciting and busy term to look forward to. Please refer to the school website calendar as I will update this with any changes to dates already published.

I thank you for your continued support and wish you a very safe and happy half term holiday.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Mrs V Spender
Headteacher

