

Friday 21st October 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

AUTUMN TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

It has been a really busy start to the new academic year and our Reception children have settled in really well. As we break for the October half term, please find following some information that will be useful for you.

DIARY DATES

October	Monday 31 st	Autumn Term 2 Begins
November	Wednesday 9 th	Bags2schools collection Parent Consultation Evening
	Thursday 10 th	Parent Consultation Evening
	Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th	Anti-bullying Week: Power for Good e-safety week
	Friday 18 th	Children in Need Dress up day & photos for school calendar
	Tuesday 29 th	Whole School Trip to the Pantomime
December	Friday 2 nd	9am Y6 Dare Graduation Assembly Pm Anti-bullying performance
	Monday 5 th	KS1 Dress rehearsal
	Tuesday 6 th	KS1 performance: 9.30am
	Wednesday 7 th	KS1 performance: 2.00pm
	Thursday 8 th	Reception & Nursery performance: 9.30am
	Friday 9 th	Reception & Nursery performance: 2.00pm
	Monday 12 th	Y5/6 party 3.30-4.30pm – join our choir for singing, coffee and mince pies!
	Tuesday 13 th	Y3/4 party

	Wednesday 14 th	Y1/2 party
	Thursday 15 th	Christmas Lunch Disco
	Friday 16 th	Non-uniform day Reception/Nursery Party
	Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th	INSET DAYS
	Wednesday 21st Dec- Monday 2nd Jan	CHRISTMAS BREAK
	Tuesday 3rd January	Spring Term 3 Begins

CHILDREN'S NEWS

Sporting news from Mrs Rhodes...

Well done to our cross country runners who all performed well. A special mention to the Y5 team who came in first place. A big thank you too, to all the fun runners in Y2 and Y3 who attended the fun to run and really enjoyed it.

The football squad seems to be going from strength to strength! They are working together well and last week won against Tupton. Well done to the Y5/6 mini soccer squad who came 2nd in the district final.

Other news...

I would like to say an enormous thank you and well done to all the children who have attended choir over this term and sang at the Clay Cross and District Music Festival at the Winding Wheel last night – they were amazing! In total 240 children from 12 schools across the district performed to an audience of over 500 people. The atmosphere was incredible and all the children sang really well. I hope that the choir continues to go from strength to strength and that you will join us for our first Christmas performance on Monday 12th December at 3.30pm (coffee and mince pies available).

Trading cards: we have recently had a significant increase in children bringing trading cards (eg: match attacks, Pokémon) to school. This has begun to cause some problems: children taking other children's cards, trading and then wanting to trade back etc. Therefore, please do not bring trading cards to school.

STAFF NEWS

Mr and Mrs Rodda welcomed baby Finn to the world on 7th October. Although we have not met Finn in school yet, Mrs Rodda has reported that all is well with her and the baby.

We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Baby Wilson (Mr Wilson Y1) whose second child is due anytime over the half term... we wish them well and look forward to welcoming baby Wilson to the Ashover family!

We are delighted that Mrs Parsons will return to school as a PPA teacher for EYFS and Year 1 following the half term.

PARENT WORKSHOPS

The parent workshops held last week were very well received and we hope that when these are held in future years, more parents will be able to attend.

ATTENDANCE – please note that the current attendance policy is under review

Statutory guidance in terms of persistent absence stands at 95% - school's attendance target is 96%+. Should your child fall below this over a full term you will be notified and further actions may be taken in accordance with current LA guidelines, however these are subject to change at any time.

Please note the following guidance from the Local Authority in regard to unauthorised leave during term time. This guidance is issued pending future judgement/guidance/legislation:

In September 2013 the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 came into force. These regulations make it clear that Head teachers should not grant approval for any leave of absence during term-time, including holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Schools should continue to consider requests for holiday absence in accordance with regulations (exceptional circumstances only) and submit all requests for the issue of penalty notices to the LA in the normal way.

- Any requests should be on an official school absence request form and handed into the school office for consideration, where possible two weeks prior to any holiday/leave arrangements being made.
- Where overall attendance is above 94% over the previous 12 months, calculated from the week after the holiday absence, penalty notices will not be issued.
- In such cases, parents will be sent a letter from the local authority advising that their child's record will show unauthorised absence and any future unauthorised leave may result in the issue of a penalty notice.
- Where overall attendance is at or below 94% penalty notices will be issued. Senior Officers believe that failure to continue to support schools and provide a consistent message on the importance of attendance may impact on the outcomes for children attending Derbyshire schools.

Further information in regard to 'Attendance Matters' is attached to this email – please take note of the traffic light system as future attendance letters will make reference to this.

SAFEGUARDING

May I please remind you that parking by parents in the school car park or on yellow lines on Narrowleys Lane is prohibited to try and ensure the safety of all school stakeholders both on arrival or departure from school.

Worryingly, I have also had a few reports from parents who have seen adults driving to and from school whilst on a mobile phone – we have a large number of families who walk to school and this causes a risk to both pedestrians and other drivers <http://think.direct.gov.uk/mobile-phones.html>.

We have recently conducted a survey amongst the children with regard to their online usage and safety. There have been some interesting results from this consequently, we will now be including an element in regard to online safety in each newsletter to parents. We have held a number of online safety parent workshops in the past which have been very informative however, not particularly well attended.

This term we would like to raise your awareness in terms of how many children are accessing social media. Across the school an average of 40% of children have reported they have a mobile phone which connects to the internet. In addition to home PCs, tablets etc, this allows them wider access to a range of social media. Across the school (Y1-Y6), the average % of children reporting they access the following social media is detailed below:

	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram	Snapchat	YouTube
Average % of Y1-Y6 chn accessing	3%	4%	15%	22%	82%
Age restrictions	13+	13+	13+	13+	13+

NB: These Age Restrictions are taken from NSPCC website 19/10/16 and may be subject to change.

Please take time to read the guidance for parents on the NSPCC website in regard to age restrictions and how to report concerns or inappropriate content. You can find this at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> on which you can sign up for regular updates to hear about new social networks, important updates and news to help keep your child safe online. The social media platforms are continuously changing so please check and monitor your child's online activity regularly.

Please bear in mind that ANY platform which enables your child to upload photographs or any personal detail may enable online groomers to access your child's details – it may be as simple as a photo upload in school uniform / brownie uniform / football kit to enable online groomers to develop an online relationship with your child through social media or online gaming which will form part of our next newsletter.

HOW TO REPORT

During Anti-bullying week (w/c 14/11/16) we will once again be reinforcing how to report any inappropriate content and the CEOP reporting button will be added to our school website over the half term. CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) is an organisation which helps children stay safe online. If someone acted inappropriately towards you or your child online, or to a child or young person you know, such as being asked to do something that makes you feel uncomfortable or someone being insistent on meeting up, it is very important



that you tell someone. You can report it to CEOP by clicking the CEOP button.

Finally, all the staff and I would like to thank you for your support over this first term and we wish you a happy half term. We look forward to seeing everyone back safely on Monday 31st October.

Yours faithfully

V Spender.

Mrs V Spender
Headteacher

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