



# Finedon Schools Newsletter



January 6th 2017

## Message from Mrs Lloyd-Williams the Headteacher

Following the very busy Christmas term, I'd like to welcome everybody back to school and to wish you all a very happy new year. Hopefully everybody has managed to 'recharge their batteries' and get rid of any bugs that seemed to affect many children and members of staff in the last few weeks of term.

On behalf of all the staff I'd like to say a big thank you for all the cards and gifts which were very gratefully received and enjoyed.

Welcome to Mrs Terri Smith, our newest member of staff at the Junior School, working as a teaching assistant in Year 5/6 SB. Mrs Smith is an experienced, qualified teacher. At the infants Miss Clarke, who is covering Mrs Glynane's maternity leave, is going to begin her maternity leave earlier than anticipated. From Monday 23rd January Miss Longstaff will share the class teaching of Yellow Class with Mrs Taylor. Miss Longstaff knows the children well, already spending time in reception and will teach on a Monday and Tuesday. Like Mrs Smith, Miss Longstaff is a qualified teacher who chooses to work as a teaching assistant and she will still be undertaking her teaching assistant role on a Wednesday and Thursday in Year One and Two. We welcome Mr Connor Hawkley at the Infant School who is working as a teaching assistant in Year one and two and Patricia Richardson who is a midday supervisor covering Mrs Helling's maternity leave. We hope they will all be very happy working in our schools.

We look forward to working with the children and seeing their learning progress this term.

Finally, congratulations to my very first Headteacher Superstars, awarded at the end of last term. The certificates were a delight to read and I very proudly presented them to the children. Well done!



Pennie Tobin, Grace Bryant, Anastacia De Wet,  
Kirk Botchway, Jessie Trasler, Leon Kirby



Harry Wills, Tiah Brown, Isobel Grigg,  
Coby Churn, Jailani Kesse, Ava Robson

## Attendance

As you know, improving attendance is a key priority for the schools. I am delighted to report that comparing the autumn term to last academic year's autumn term, we have seen a big improvement in the attendance figures at the Infant School and the Junior School attendance was similar, although it dipped slightly.

The persistent absenteeism rates also dropped at both schools!

Currently we give out certificates for achieving 100% attendance at both schools and in addition for achieving above 98% attendance at the Infant School. Next term we are going to start giving out this certificate at the Junior School too. If your child didn't bring home a certificate in December, then maybe they can aim to achieve one this term.

Congratulations to Thomas Shanley at the Infant School who was last term's winner of the £15 Amazon voucher and to Corey Chambers who won it at the Junior School. Their names were drawn from everybody who had achieved 100% attendance in term 2. The next draw will take place at the end of term 3.



The attendance cup remains highly competitive for classes, all waiting with anticipation in Friday's celebration assemblies to see if their class had the highest attendance that week and won the cup!

So far this year we haven't had many opportunities to reward classes for achieving 100% attendance in a week—maybe this term will see more classes achieving this!

<b>Infant School Percentage Attendance September - December 2016</b>		<b>Junior School Percentage Attendance September - December 2016</b>	
Red Class	97.07%	3/4 AG	96.92%
Yellow Class	93.15%	3/4 CW	96.46%
Blue Class	96.50%	3/4 LD	95.02%
Green Class	96.71%	5/6 SA	97.32%
Purple Class	94.79%	5/6 SB	97.75%
		5/6 KN	96.32%

Thank you for supporting us with our initiatives to improve attendance we are improving but can, of course, do even better!

## Christmas Fair

Thank you to everybody who supported the Christmas Fair organised by FoFS. We are pleased to say that the event raised the grand total of £1070 which will be used to enhance the children's learning. This year our major fundraising focus is improving the book stock at both schools.

We do still have a number of unclaimed raffle prizes - all orange tickets:

642

668

677

767

Please come to the Junior School office to claim your prize!



## Thank you

The Christmas Jumper Day raised the grand total of £154 at the Junior School and £89 at the Infant School which will be donated to Save the Children.



## Year Two Admissions to Junior School

Parents and carers of pupils in Year 2 who are due to transfer to Junior School in September 2017 are reminded that the closing date for applications is 5pm on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017. If you have not already done so, please ensure that you apply for a Junior School place for your child and that this is received by Northamptonshire County Council before the closing date. A late application will mean that the chance of getting one of your preferred schools is greatly reduced.

School places are **not** automatically allocated to any child even if there is an older brother or sister attending a Junior School, you live in an area linked to a particular school or you attend a linked Infant School.

### Closing date:

For Junior School applications - **15<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 5pm**

### How to apply:

Online at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/admissions)

## P.E.

We have a high number of children at both schools who forget to bring their P.E. kit to school on a regular basis.

At the Junior School, children will no longer be allowed to borrow kit belonging to their friends, which can result in it becoming dirty or damaged.

Children need a plain white t-shirt and plain dark shorts (these should be suitable for P.E. and not long 'beach style') and a pair of joggers for outdoor P.E. (children may wear their school sweatshirt). In addition they require a pair of trainers or plimsolls, that fit. School shoes may not be worn for P.E.

Please ensure all kit is named.

If your child forgets to bring their kit, a text will be sent to parents/carers letting them know.

Physical activity is a vital and enjoyable aspect of the school curriculum and we don't want children to miss out on this, or time to be wasted on sorting out kit issues.

Thank you in advance for supporting your child to be prepared for their P.E. lessons.

## Dates for your Diary

Thursday 19th January 3:05 p.m.	Maths Information Session for Parents/ Carers of Reception Children
Thursday 9th February	Reception visiting the Castle Theatre to see The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Friday 10th February	Term ends
Monday 20th February	Term begins
Tuesday 28th February	Finedon pancake races
Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th March	Parent/Carer, Teacher and Pupil Learning Re- view Meetings
Wednesday 22nd March	Class Photograph day
Thursday 23rd March	The choir singing at the Ladies Fellowship Group (in school time)
Friday 31st March	Term ends