

Wednesday 19th July 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to our final newsletter of the year. As we draw to the end of our school year, we can reflect on just how much has been achieved and are truly proud of our school community. We thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to develop and flourish as a school. Our year 6 children will soon be moving on to pastures new, and we wish them a fond farewell. At the same time we look forward to welcoming a new reception class into the school in September.

Next year

The academic year begins in September on Wednesday 6th September at 8.45am, when all children should be in school, other than the new reception class, who will have a staggered start to join us from Thursday 7th September. For those who are registered for Shake & Wake, and have paid their half termly fees, the club will be open from 7.30am

Attendance

Many thanks to all the parents who have worked so hard to abide by our attendance policy this year and ensured that children are in school as much as possible. Traffic light letters will be sent out at the end of this term, and the usual draw (including all 100% attenders) has taken place for a £10 book voucher – won by Abby in Y5. Certificates and an invite to the Headteacher's lunch have been awarded for children who have managed 100% attendance for a full year. (YR = Scarlett, Y1 = Harry, Y2 = Grace, Y3 = Kieran, Ben, Jack and Charlie, Y4 = Grace, Joshua and Harvey, Y5 = Hollie and Aiden, Y6 = Kieran, Jacob, Louise, Harrison and Mason. Special mention to Jacob in Year 6, who has not missed a school day in the past 3 years!! Can I please take this opportunity to remind parents that requests for term time leave of absence will be declined by the Governing body unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Head lice

The summertime is a perfect time for Head lice to breed – nice warm heads!! However, the holidays are also a perfect time to ensure that your family are clear from Head lice. If you are unsure as to what procedures to follow – please check out our website. Following the Parent Forum the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team are working together to rewrite the school policy in order to make how we deal with head lice in school more effective.

Achievements in school

Over the course of this past term we have had a number of reasons to be proud of our children. Most recently, the Year 6 and Year 2 children have finished undertaking their end of key stage SATs. We are extremely proud of the way that all the children approached their assessments, and how hard they worked in preparation for the tests. The results they have achieved are a credit to them, and also can I say, a credit to the teaching staff who have worked so hard to prepare the children for the assessments. A big well done goes out to you all!

School Meals

The cost of our school meals will be charged at £2.00 per day (£10.00 per week) as of September. All children in the infants will continue to receive universal free school meals. Pupil premium children in the Juniors will still be able to claim their meals for free, providing that their application for FSM is still valid. If you are unsure as to whether your child should be receiving free school meals, or if your circumstances have changed, please see Mrs Bradshaw in the school office.

Congratulations!

I have the pleasure of informing you that we have a new arrival on the way! Mrs Passarelli is expecting a baby and will be taking maternity leave during November 2017. We will begin the recruitment process for her cover soon after the summer break, and hope that the new teacher will be able to work alongside Mrs Passarelli from half term to ensure a smooth transition. We will do our best to keep you updated of the situation.

Reading Challenges

Thank you to all of you who have regularly supported your child over the year with their reading. It really does make a huge difference right across school and I trust you will continue over the summer break. As usual there will be a reading challenge running at Newbold Library over the holidays. Please do pop in and find out all about it – there will be a celebration assembly in school in September to reward all the children who completed the challenge successfully.

PTA

Many thanks to all who have been involved with, and have supported, our PTA events this year. Our disco's graduation evening and fashion shows, to name but a few, could not go ahead without a significant commitment from our PTA. This year they have raised in excess of £4000, the majority of which has been spent improving the courtyard at the front of school. During the summer holidays we will also see the addition of an outdoor classroom in the courtyard area, which can double up as a rain shelter for parents at the end of the day. Next year we hope to use PTA funding to create a 'Community Room' at the front of school. We would welcome more support from our parents and friends. Please see Mrs James or Mrs Mellor if you are interested in helping out – every little helps.

Uniform

In preparation for next year, please support us in ensuring that your child has the correct uniform and PE kit (including logo PE T-shirt) for school. As I stated in a previous letter, from September the children should not wear uniform that has the old school logo on it. The wearing of school uniform is compulsory and the school requires all pupils to conform to the policy. Uniform orders can be made via the internet – the link is on the school website. (www.uniform-direct.com),

If your child has mislaid any items of clothing, please speak to their class teacher as soon as possible, or feel free to look in our lost property bin. All unnamed and unclaimed clothing left in school at the end of the term will be given to charity.

Respect

It has come to my attention that in spite of my polite request, a number of parents took photographs and recordings during the junior production of ARNIE. This request was made for a reason – we have some children in school who are subject to safeguarding requirements. As such, can I repeat my request that **no parent shares images of other people's children on social media**. I have advised the parents involved that should it arise that images have been shared, they take further legal action. Consequently, I have made the sad decision that if a member of the audience is seen taking photographs or recordings in future, the show will be stopped and they will be asked to leave. Please understand that this is for the safe keeping of our children.

Finally

Yet again I would like to thank you for all the kind words and gestures of support that you have given this year – let's hope that there are many more successes and happy times to come. I would also like to finish this letter by thanking ALL the staff for all their hard work and dedication this year – you have continued to stand by me through some testing times but together we continue to move the school forwards. Thank you.

I wish all members of our school – children, parents, carers, friends and staff, a lovely summer, and look forward to all that 2017 / 2018 brings.

All the best

L. Marsh