



South Cave CE (VC) Primary School

Church Street, South Cave, Brough, East Riding of Yorkshire. HU15 2EP

Tel: 01430 422526

Email: office@scps.eriding.net

Website: www.southcaveprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. J. Newby

Thursday 12th October, 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Newsletter – October 2017

Harvest – thank you

Thank you for your generous donations for our harvest festival again this year. Revd Lyn from All Saints Church joined us for our celebrations and was very pleased to take our donations back to the church to join those of the church congregation to send to the homeless charity that they support in Hull, it is always good to know that the donations are staying in the local area.

Children playing on the school site

Whilst working late at school on Tuesday evening I was alerted to a number of children playing behind the Key Stage One building at around 6.45pm and witnessed one child jumping down from the roof of the walkway that leads to the computer suite. Unfortunately it was too dark to make out any of the children although it is my belief, due to the height of the boys, that they were probably pupils in Y5 or 6. I would appreciate it if you would speak to your children about how dangerous it is to play in secluded areas, particularly now the nights are getting darker and also the dangers of playing on the roof, and also to ensure they are not coming back to school to play, other than to play on the grass at the front of school which is completely visible from the road.

Improvements in school

We have once again begun some school to school support with Ebor Academy and we have had a very successful initial 3 days. The team from Ebor will be working with staff developing leadership across the school. On their first visit last week they were very positive about our school, commenting very positively saying that our learning environment within the classrooms, learning behaviours across the school and relationships between staff and pupils were a clear strength. They were very confident that our school is a 'good' school and will be working with staff to ensure we are able to prove this to Ofsted next time they visit.

We are in the process of reviewing and further developing our School Improvement Plan, so that we can work on areas to help improve our school even further. Once this is complete and agreed by governors and staff I will send a summary of the actions to all parents so that you are aware of the areas we are working on this year.

Communication with parents

Communication between a school and parents is always difficult to get right, and is never easy to get it right for all parents all of the time however I intend to try to further develop communication and engagement with parents this year, to build on the positive relationships that we already have with the majority of parents. We have already introduced many initiatives over the last three years, including inviting parents to a coffee morning and class assembly; holding curriculum workshops, giving parents information about aspects of the curriculum and then giving you the opportunity to work with your child in their classroom; inviting parents to take part in year group RE workshops at the church; inviting parents to a Year 6 leavers assembly; questionnaires to seek your views on aspects that you feel are going well and those that you feel could be better; consultations on aspects of school life. We have introduced a detailed half termly newsletter as well as a weekly parent mail with reminders of what is happening in school and have improved the information on the school website, with year group pages informing parents of activities as well as photographs.

Whenever possible I also try to be available on the playground at 9am, however given the nature of the school site with so many entrances it is difficult to be visible to all parents. In future I will be joined (whenever possible) by Mrs Worthington (Assistant Head) so that 2 of us will be around to welcome parents and children each morning and to answer any queries you may have, one of us will be at the front of school for Foundation and KS1 and one of us will be around the top playground for KS2. If your query is in relation to something within the classroom it would be better to try to speak to the class teacher, at the end of the



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day, when teachers hand over the children to you. At the start of the day their priority is obviously to ensure they are ready to register and teach the children.

Electronic communication with parents

We are in the process of improving the format of our school website, to bring it more up to date and make it more appealing to children and parents. I will keep you informed about this and let you know when our new website will be ready to launch! We are also looking into the possibility of developing a communication system between the class teacher and parents using an App, so that the teacher can keep parents up to date with information and send photos of interesting activities the class is doing. Obviously this will be a two way system so that parents can contribute too. It is very similar to a twitter system, but is a closed system so that people who are not within our school community cannot access this information. We will trial this in a Key Stage 1 and a Key Stage 2 class to begin with to ensure it is a worthwhile system and if successful, will then roll it out across the whole school. Watch this space for more information!

Upcoming 'festive' activities

Miss Clark informed the children last week that we will once again be supporting the shoe box Christmas appeal. Last year we collected over 60 shoe boxes filled with small gifts for children less fortunate than our own, who without the shoe box appeal would not receive any presents at Christmas. Miss Clark has some empty shoe boxes, if you would like to take part but don't have a box to lay your hands on at home. Please see the leaflet that went out in last week's parent mail for more information.

We will once again be taking part in the Christingle Service at All Saints' Church on December 3rd. Key Stage One and Two children will be working together to make the Christingles in school ready to take to the church for the service on the Sunday. The KS1 service will be at 3.30pm and KS2 at 5.00pm. Obviously if you have children in both Key Stages you are welcome to come to the service that is more convenient to your family. We will be choosing some Y2 children and Y6 children to do some readings during the service.

Pupil roles in school

Now that we have got settled into the new school year we have asked Y5 and 6 pupils to take on a variety of responsibilities. We have introduced Peer Mediators in Y6, those children who volunteered for this role have received training sessions and are now prepared for their role at break and lunchtime where they will be on hand for younger pupils to go to if they have any friendship issues on the playground, if they are not able to deal with the situation they are trained to call for assistance from one of the adults on the playground. This sort of role has been carried out in many East Riding schools for a number of years and we are very pleased that we have now been given the opportunity for this training from the Local Authority Educational Psychology team.

As Year 6's have been involved in this, we are now moving the role of Young Sports Leaders to Year 5. Children have been asked to volunteer for this role and they are now in the process of being trained to organise the playtime equipment and allocated a duty once a week. This will begin next week.

Last year's school council members are now in their final few weeks of their role, before new school councillors are voted for by their classmates. New councillors will take over after half term and I would like to take the opportunity to thank the outgoing councillors who have met regularly with Mrs Worthington to discuss issues within school from the pupils points of view as well as agree on various things such as charities to support over the year and equipment they would like FOSCS to prioritise.

FOSCS

FOSCS have 2 evening events coming up over the next few weeks. Their first event is a comedy night next Friday evening, 20th October. They have put a lot of time into organising this new venture and have worked with a professional promotor to book

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the comedians and compere and have organised a very popular local hog roast company to provide the food for the evening. Drinks will also be available to buy on the evening. If you would like a 'different' night out then tickets are available from the front office.

They will also be holding the very popular community bonfire night, which will be held on Saturday 4th November this year. Please remember to buy your tickets over the next two weeks as school will be on half term in the week leading up to the event so tickets will not be able to be purchased during that week.

Changes to newsletter

You will notice that my newsletter has now become a monthly, rather than half termly one, in the hope that I am able to share all the information I think you will find useful more regularly.

I have also introduced a 'comments box', so that you have an opportunity to inform me of any comments, suggestions or queries that you feel are more relevant to me than your child's class teacher. You may have a good idea that you would like to share, have a worry about a school procedure that you think I should know, have a topic you would like me to write about in my next newsletter or may want me to pass on thanks for something to a member of staff. A box will be placed in the front entrance for your comments to be placed. I will, of course, continue to be available on the phone, via e-mail or meet with parents.

Thank you for your continued support.

J. Newby

Comments box

Name.....Child's name..... Class.....