

St. Modwen's Newsletter

7th September 2018

Telephone 01283 247560 Email: office@st-modwens.staffs.sch.uk Website: www.st-modwens.staffs.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We have had a wonderful week here of staff training and three fabulous days with your amazing children. It has been wonderful to hear all about the children's summer experiences and we are particularly looking forward to Rhoma and Rafe's presentation in assembly on Monday, all about how Modwen the Attendance Swan spent her summer with the Clemson family!

Mr B's Summer Reading Project

Congratulations and thank you to all of the families who got behind Mr Brassington's summer reading/craft project. The designs which have come in are absolutely brilliant-so creative! I have posted a few of them on twitter which caught my eye on Wednesday morning. If you missed this message, it was to invite children to make a scene in a shoe box/ other cardboard box, of a favourite part of a plot or a location in a book. We have received the peach on top of the Empire State; the upside down room; a quidditch pitch; various castles and even non-fiction scenes such as the Egyptian pyramids. We are glad you had so much fun with it and the children are so proud of their work. Mr Brassington will be putting a display of these together in time for the October parents' evening so you can enjoy an exhibition in the library.

Open Evening

School will be open for an hour after school next Wednesday so that you can come in and see your child's classroom, meet the teacher and pick up/ask about any information you are unsure about. This is in place of the previous 'Meet the Teacher' event which was not largely attended. Please note that this is not a parents' evening as such and teachers will not be discussing individual children's progress- this will all be provided next month in the actual parents' evening. Next Wednesday is an opportunity for you to pop in for giving the teacher any information such as a change of circumstances for your child over the holidays/ asking some general questions etc so any teething problems do not have to wait until October.

Parking

We are very fortunate to have a car park as many schools do not. I have had a couple of requests from frustrated parents and neighbours however: please if you have dropped off your child through the gate, would you be able to expediently move your car to allow other parents to park. We appreciate the value of social interaction between the parents on site but some parents are finding it frustrating that they cannot pull their car up because parents who have parked and no longer need the space, are preventing new cars from coming in. The area was originally designed for drop off. Thank you for your understanding. Also, one of our neighbours has understandably complained about a car parking across his drive and then the driver using obscene hand gestures to the home owner when he complained about being blocked in to his own house. St Modwen's strongly discourages this sort of anti -social behaviour. Thank you for your support in maintaining a good reputation for our school.

School Readiness

If your child is not yet toilet trained please can you complete this crucial part of your child's development as soon as possible at home. It is very difficult for staff to change nappies whilst teaching. If your child has a diagnosable special educational need then this message of course does not apply. Thank you for your understanding.

Separation Anxiety

Well done to the new Reception and Nursery pupils for coming in to school this week so courageously! We are particularly impressed to see that many of them were able to say goodbye to parents at the gate and walk in with the staff or older children. We will be starting this for all Reception children next Monday, who will come in independently through the top gate and staff will accompany anyone who is a little timid. Whilst it seems counter-intuitive to leave your child crying, maybe even tantruming at the gate: please be assured that they all settle down quite quickly once they know that the option to stay with their parent is no longer there. The longer a parent stays with their child, the more the anxiety builds as children pick up on parents' own separation emotions. Children also think that if you are still there, and they keep crying long enough, you may take them home. I have phoned individual parents this week within the first 20 minutes or so to reassure them that their child is no longer crying, is playing with the toys/having a dance/happy as. Try not to worry- it is often harder for the parent than it is for the child!

Safeguarding and Security

We have a large number of pupils and adults around in the morning with many entrances in to school. To reduce the risk of someone taking advantage of this busy time to seek access to the school with harmful intent, we prefer to have all the children dropped off at the far exterior gates so that the only adults within the grounds each morning are staff with ID badges. As learning takes place pretty much straight away, we have made a decision in the past to leave parental/teacher liaison to the end of the day when you are welcome to collect your child from the classroom door itself. Thank you for your cooperation as this ensures morning lessons can start on time.

Uniform Labelling

Last year a lot of red sweatshirts, cardigans and PE shoes were left in lost property in mint condition because there were no names on the items. If you are willing to volunteer your time to come in and label up children's clothes we can prevent this sort of financial and material wastage. Please contact the office if you are happy to help. If you do not wish your child's red sweatshirt/cardigan or PE shoes to be labelled please advise us via email.

Walking Home/Collection from School

Just a reminder- pupils who are in Y5 or under cannot be collected by anyone who is under 14 yrs of age. Pupils in Y6 are all now allowed again to walk home from school as long as there is a parental permission letter and they are not walking home to an empty house. Pupils in Y5 are not allowed to walk home until the summer term. Please remind your child if they are aged 10 or over that they are criminally culpable in a court of law and should be mindful as to how they behave on the way home from school. Their walking privileges are subject to them not doing anything which puts themselves or others in danger/causes a bad reputation to the school. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Prayer Garden

Thank you to Mr Boddey and team for completing the hard landscaping on the garden over the summer holidays, it looks fabulous! We are now at the soft landscaping/planting and design stage. Mr Hubbard will be creating woodland-style pathways over the coming weeks and we have various members of staff who are keen to develop the different patches. If you would like to get involved in any way, we are keen to hear from you.

You don't even have to be a green-fingered type, we are looking for people to join the following teams: fundraising/sponsorship; multi-faith friendly areas/artefacts; Catholic areas e.g. mysteries of the rosary scenes; willow weaving; herb planting; sensory area; ornamental area e.g. statues, gnomes, etc; stone painting and any other creative ideas you have! Parents/parishioners are welcome to come in during the day to develop the garden (we will provide refreshments) or after school. I will also be able to open up for gardening days on a few Saturdays later this Autumn. The staff are already planning activities to do with the children to develop the plot.

Thank you so much to our PTA for the funds raised thus far in developing this area which will be used for class Masses that parents' can attend; class liturgies; families who wish to pray in there together after school; other community events such as a May Procession and much more besides to provide children with the opportunity to connect with nature and feel closer to God.

School Games PLATINUM Award!

We look forward to sharing more and more news as the weeks go on. The big news this week, which you may have seen on twitter, is that we are the second school ever in Staffordshire to achieve the Platinum Games Award as a result of achieving the Gold standard for 5 years running! We congratulate our Sports Leader Mr Read, parents who have supported events including providing transport, other staff who have supported/led games clubs or attended matches/ coached teams and of course...our amazing sporty children who have shown determination, respect for each other, commitment, team work and all the other Olympic values- we are all very proud of you.

Have a wonderful weekend,
Miranda Gibbs
Head Teacher

Our Spiritual Garden Sponsors include:

NJB Construction
Building & Maintenance Contractors

Nathan Boddey
Director

Ironwalls Lane
Tutbury

01283 813648 / 07894 628586

njboddeyconstruction@hotmail.com

