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September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to the beginning of a new academic year. For some families this will be a new learning adventure, for others a learning continuum. We welcome new staff this term, Miss Parsons, Mr Duffy, Miss Quartermain and Miss Owers. We are also very pleased to have Mr Worrall working with us full time as of September, who is a mentor for some of our children. We are also welcoming back from the maternity leave, Mrs Healy in Year 2. The school has not taken long to settle down into its usual hum of activity, excitement and hard work, which is pleasing to see. We have already started the term with lots of exciting activities and events to enhance our curriculum offer. We do hope to have other wonderful opportunities such as a resident artist in the summer term. If you have any skill set that you may think could contribute to our curriculum, or know others that do, please contact me.

EYFS

A warm welcome to the children and their parents who start with us this term. It has been lovely to see your children growing increasingly confident in our Early Years Foundation Stage 2 base and how quickly they have settled into school in their first week.

STAFF TRAINING

On the training days at the start of September, staff were trained on Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 and First Aid.

GO READ change of name

This year we want to continue to improve the outcomes for reading throughout the school and develop a real love for reading. From Foundation Stage to Year 6, it is imperative that your child reads daily to you or you read to your child. It can be any form of material; comics, online articles, newspapers, picture books, non-fiction or fiction books. Your role in supporting your child to achieve this is very important and necessary – both by listening to your child read and to talk about what they have read.

To support reading we launched our GoRead app at the end of term – however, it has now changed its name to Boom. This should not affect your use. I am pleased that many children were using this app during the holidays.

Our fantastic library will be open from next week for children in Years 1 -6 to visit and choose a book to take home. We have a great selection of new books being added to the catalogue. You can log onto our library catalogue from home. You and your child can browse the books that we have in the library, see which new books have been recently added, make a reservation, check your child's loans and read and write book reviews. The link to log in is below.

<https://apps.libresoft.co.uk/9282183-98s0xm6utnpx7golxdys-wps/>



Your child's log in details will be the same as last year, but if you need a reminder, please contact Mrs Frodsham or your child's teacher. Year 1 children will receive their log in details after their first visit to the library.

Over the holidays, Mrs Ayton launched a book reading competition. Thank you so much to all the children that entered the Summer Reading Competition. The entries were lovely to receive and everyone was incredibly creative! We will be announcing the winners today in our assembly.

CLASS DOJO

To improve communication, we will be launching Class Dojo for Years 1-6. This is another App-based tool which I hope will make all families feel more connected to school, and the day to day events in the classrooms and throughout the school. Each week, your year group staff will be posting information about what learning has taken place and any relevant information. Next week you will receive a link to the App, which will give you access to our school DOJO pages.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

This year I am so pleased to inform you we will be running clubs for our children in Years 1 - 6. Years 5 and 6 external providers are also starting to come into school. Football club with GLK will start next week for Years 1 - 4. As clubs become available we will send our Parentmails to the relevant year groups. Flex'd gym and dance are also on offer and I am aware there are a few spaces left for dance should your child want to take part. I will be sending out more information about clubs next week.

SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

School council elections will be held by the end of September and there are lots of exciting projects for them to undertake. They will be canvassing their peers about their views on homework so the children's input for a new policy will be considered alongside your views which were shared at the start of the term.

SCHOOL VALUES

As a school, we are continuing to promote our core values of hard work, responsibility and respect. If you feel your child has demonstrated these values, please do not hesitate to contact myself or your child's class teacher and we can recognise their out of school achievements in our celebration assemblies.

PARKING

As with most schools, parking causes us a problem. Please, can I request that you do not park on the zigzag lines on Link Road or Acre Lane, by doing so is a breach of the Highway Code and a fine can be issued. Photographs of those parked irresponsibly will be taken. Please also consider our local community when you are parking. It is unreasonable to park across driveways, even for a few minutes. Some of our parents had blocked drives by Greenhills Road.

Can I ask that all adults and children walk on the pavements, not the road part of the carpark when using the Acre Lane entrance – we want to model safe behaviours to our children.

CYCLE SAFETY

It is fantastic to see how many children chose to cycle/scoot into school. It is a great way for them (and you!) to stay fit and healthy and get some exercise. We ask children to be aware of only two things before riding into school. The first item is a cycle helmet. I cannot over-emphasise how important it is for reasons of safety. If I, or other members of staff, spot a child who is not wearing a helmet and is using his/her bicycle to come into school, I will contact you to find out why. As the nights now begin to draw in, I would ask that you consider reflective clothing for your child if they are continuing to cycle to school when the clocks go back at the end of October. Secondly, can I please ask parents of our younger children not to scoot or cycle on the school grounds. Please wait until they are out of the gate before they ride and this also applies to adults.



ATTENDANCE AND BOOKING HOLIDAYS

I offer my sincere thanks to all parents who ensure their child is in school and ready to learn for every session of the school year. I follow West Northamptonshire Council guidelines regarding attendance and I forward to the Educational Inclusion and Partnerships team (EIP) any holiday absence that is 5 consecutive days or greater. The EIP will consider the submission and enforce a fine of £60 per child, per parent. Constant holiday absence referrals may result in direct court proceedings by West Northamptonshire County Council without issuing a penalty notice (fine). This year the government will class your child as persistently absent if his/her attendance falls below 90%. In terms of absence, this equates to just over three weeks off. Any child who is classed as persistently absent may be asked to come into school with his/her parents and establish an attendance contract with us.

STATUTORY STANDARD TESTS (SSTs) AND YEAR 1 PHONICS TESTING

Please ensure that no holidays are booked for any child in Year 6 over the period Monday 8th to Friday 12th May 2023, as this is when the Key Stage 2 SSTs are scheduled to take place. It is vitally important that all Year 6 children are in school during this week and in the lead-up to the tests.

All children in Year 1 will undertake an assessment task to ascertain the progress he/she has made in phonics (understanding letters and sounds) during the week commencing 12th June 2023. It is important that your child is in school to complete this assessment.

Year 4 children also undertake the Department for Education multiplication test in summer 2023. We would like you to work with us to improve outcomes for children with their times tables. Key Stage 2 children and Year 2 have access to TT Rockstars to improve their table recall.

NEW INTAKE SEPTEMBER 2023

If you have a child or know families with children who are three and will be seeking a school place in September 2023, please recommend our fantastic school.

The opening date for applications is 10th September 2022, and the closing date will be **5pm on 15 January 2023**. We have a number of open days in October, more details can be found on our website.

To find out more about the admission arrangements for each Primary school in West Northamptonshire and for detailed information about the process for applying for a place at a primary school, please read the ['Applying for a Primary school place in West Northamptonshire – 2022-2023'](#)

YEAR 6 PARENTS

The closing date for secondary school applications is 31st October 2022 (5pm). If you do not send your application in by the deadline, your choice of school may not be considered.

As I get information about possible visits to the secondary schools, I will be passing this information on.

Please note that our school does not have any influence in the allocation of schools – the local authority allocate the places.

YEAR 4 & YEAR 6 RESIDENTIALS

We have booked our residentials for both year groups and these will take place next year in the summer term. Next week I will be sending you all the information. We would like every child to attend the residentials. Once issued, if you would like to discuss the payment plan in more detail, please contact the school office.



HARVEST COLLECTION

During the week of Monday 3rd October until Friday 7th October, I will be leading an assembly in school to celebrate harvest and to consider those for whom not having enough food is an ongoing issue. Our school has strong links with the Hope Centre in Northampton and we have collected for them for many years. Our contribution to them is always very gratefully received and I have to thank you for the wonderful donations you make year after year. Should you wish to send in a donation that week, please can we request any non-perishable food items (that are in date) and toiletries.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We have a selection of very good quality preloved school uniform, which we have placed outside for anyone who would like it. If you need any uniform, the stock is located outside the main office. Thank you to those who donated the uniforms.

Please ensure that all uniform, new or old, is named clearly in ink that is permanent, as it can save a lot of organisation for us and money for you. You would be surprised how many brand new items had to be reunited with their owners this week!

E-SAFETY

Please can I remind parents to regularly check their child's devices to ensure children stay safe online. A quick, but very impactful video to view is 'Beware of the Cyber Playground'.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ApfDVJbcS0>

Parents can also contact the free NSPCC Online Safety Helpline with questions about parental controls or concerns about a social network their children are using on **0808 8005002**.

From our training, we have been informed of a useful App that parents of our older children may be interested in: <https://www.qustodio.com/en/> This App allows you to check from your phone what your children are accessing on their phones and devices. We have more concerns raised from parents about online safety and this could help support many of you protect your child through easier monitoring.

CEOP is another useful site to support you too. <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

As a school, we have invested in National Online Safety and we will be sharing more information about this with you. Online safety is very important to us and we want to support you in protecting your child online. Please contact me if you do have any concerns.

Non-uniform day (Mufti) will be held on the last day of this half term. The cost of this will be £1 and via a Parentmail payment. The funds raised from this will supplement trips, visitors and resources across the year groups.

Kind regards,

Natalie James
Headteacher

