



Newsletter

October 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

Well we have had a great start to the new term and hope that this will continue throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing all of you during our parent/teacher interviews that will be taking place shortly. Sign-up sheets are on the classroom doors this week for you to choose your time. If you are unable to make the times available please speak to your child's class teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs Zoe Anderson
Head Teacher

Uniform

The children have started back looking very smart in their school uniforms and we do encourage all children to wear the correct uniform.

It is a shame that so many un-named pieces of uniform have ended up in lost property so early in the term so could you please make sure that all uniform is labelled with your child's name and class.

Wear it Pink Day

As many of you will be aware the **Breast Cancer Campaign** is a charity close to our hearts here at school. As such we have decided to let the children come dressed in pink (or non-uniform if they prefer) on **Thursday 19th October** for a minimum of **£1 donation** to the charity.

Diary Dates

6 th Oct	Pink Class to visit allotment
9 th Oct	Sponsor money in for MTFC Penalty Shootout
10 th Oct	Individual/family group photos

Diary Dates Cont.

10 th Oct	Parent/Teacher Interviews
12 th Oct	Parent/Teacher Interviews
13 th Oct	Purple Class to visit allotment
17 th Oct	Parents Phonics/Reading Morning
19 th Oct	Wear it Pink Day
19 th Oct	Children break up for half term
20 th Oct	INSET Day
30 th Oct	INSET Day
31 st Oct	Children return to school
2 nd Nov	Blunderbus Theatre Company
3 rd Nov	Blunderbus Theatre Company
6 th Nov	Infant/Junior Admission Applications open
17 th Nov	Children in Need
28 th Nov	Ragtex Clothing Collection
5 th Dec	Christmas Dinner
7 th Dec	Christmas Fundraiser
11 th Dec	Trip to Pantomime at Mansfield Palace Theatre
14 th Dec	2.00pm Foundation Concert
15 th Dec	9.30am Foundation Concert
15 th Dec	Xmas Jumper Day
19 th Dec	2.30pm KS1 Concert
20 th Dec	9.30am KS1 Concert
21 st Dec	Christmas Parties
22 nd Dec	2.30pm Carols around the tree
22 nd Dec	Break up for Christmas
8 th Jan	Back to school
16 th Feb	INSET Day
25 th May	INSET Day



Harvest

This year we have decided to collect for the Foodbank in Ollerton. It has been brought to my attention that the area that is in most need of this service is Clipstone with more families accessing the Foodbank than any other locally. Families from Clipstone can now access the Foodbank through All Saints Church, which has opened its door one morning a week to meet demand. With this in mind, I felt it was only right that we tried to support our own community. The Foodbank cannot accept any fresh produce but are in great need of:-

- Tinned goods
- Dried foods
- Sauces
- Jams/Marmalade
- Crisps
- Cereal bars
- Custard
- Squash
- Tinned meat
- Tinned fish
- Instant mash
- Dog/Cat food

If you can help in any way, we would very much appreciate it. We are looking for donations to be in school for Monday 16th October so we can help families over half term.



School Priorities

Each year we look at the priorities for school development. We then work on these throughout the year to improve these areas.

This year we currently have 4 priorities:-

- **To improve the teaching of Reading across the school.** The SATs data for the Year 2 cohort who have just left us shows that they did very well in Reading, attaining better than the Nottinghamshire average, however data for the other cohorts was not as good and we need this to improve so that results can remain in line with last year.
- **To improve the teaching of Maths across the school.** Again we made big improvements last year so that the SATs data was good, however it wasn't as good as it was in other areas mainly due to children not being confident in their number facts and the use of reason/problem solving.
- **To improve boys' attitudes to learning.** Boys again didn't achieve as well as the girls last year and this is mainly due to their attitudes and behaviour. We intend to work on their attitudes through PSHE and the work we do on Growth Mindset and reinforcing behaviour through 123 Magic.
- **To improve parent partnerships.** In order to work on the other areas we need parents to work with us to help their children. This includes reading more with your child and completing homework as well as realising the importance of attending school every day unless they are genuinely ill. We would also like to fill our Parent Governor vacancies and set up a PTA.

Photographs

Braiswick photographers will be on site again on 10th October for Individual and Family photographs. All children will be photographed individually in school time. As in previous years, you are able to have a family photograph with older and/or younger siblings **who do not attend** our school if you come in at **8.00am**. We will photograph all siblings that do attend our school in school time so you do not need to come early for this.



Water Bottles/PE Kits

Please can you ensure that both Water Bottles and PE Kits are in school each Monday.

We send home water bottles on a Friday so that they can be thoroughly cleaned but they need to be back in school on a Monday so that you child can drink throughout the day.

We will only send home PE Kits at the end of a half term but if you wish to take it home before hand you may as long as it is returned for a Monday.

Attendance / Punctuality

Our attendance target for this year is to get over 96%. The government have said that a good level of attendance is 96% and over. For September we reached **96.02%** which is slightly better than last year but we still had a number of holidays and illness last month.

As per our attendance policy, if you phone to say that your child is off sick but we later find out that they were on holiday we will record it as unauthorised and could then result in a fine being issued or prosecution.

Class Attendance for September

Red Class	97.9%
Green Class	96.0%
Blue Class	95.3%
Purple Class	93.2%
Pink Class	92.4%

Well done to **Red Class** for having the best attendance last month! It's been disappointing to see so few classes over 96%.

We have not had a good start to the school year in terms of punctuality with hundreds of minutes of learning time being lost each week due to lateness. Please can we also remind you that our doors open at **8.40am** to give the children time to put their coats and bags away before they start at **8.45am**. The children have important 'morning jobs' that they do at this time to consolidate and improve their learning.

We also finish the school day at **3.15pm** and staff often have meetings after school so we would appreciate your promptness in collection.

Parents Phonics/Reading Morning

It would be lovely to see you all at our curriculum morning on **Tuesday 17th October**. This will run from just after drop off until 10am and will give you the opportunity to share in Reading and Phonics activities with your child in their class. The class teacher will also give you some ideas on how you can support your child at home.



Pupil Premium

Your child may qualify for the additional funding/support if your child attends a Nottinghamshire County Council School or Nursery full and you receive one of the following benefits:

- income support
 - income based jobseeker's allowance
 - income related employment support allowance
 - support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - child tax credit, provided you are not entitled to working tax credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
 - guarantee element of state pension credit
- You can apply for this on the Nottinghamshire County Council website using the same log in you used to apply for a school place.

Nut Free School

We have a number of children in school with severe nut allergies. On the advice of staff at Kings Mill Hospital we aim to practise a nut free policy, although we recognise that this cannot be guaranteed. We will try to reduce the risk to those children and adults who may suffer an anaphylactic reaction if exposed to nuts to which they are sensitive. This means that packed lunches should not contain nuts or nut products such as Nutella or Peanut Butter and if bringing in items for birthday treats can we ask that these too are nut free.

Equipment/Bikes/Scooters

Please can we remind you that children are not permitted to play with playground equipment before or after school (this includes the playhouse and climbing frames). You are responsible for your child at these times and we ask that you do not allow them to play on the equipment.

We encourage children to come to school on bikes and scooters, however we do ask that **all** bikes/scooters (including adults and older siblings) be pushed rather than ridden whilst on school grounds to prevent accidents.