



Autumn Term Newsletter (1)

September 2015

Welcome back everyone. A special welcome to our Early Years children and their parents.

Improvements to the building during the summer

We have once again been busy over the summer improving the site. This year we cleaned and repaired the entire brickwork at the front of the school, replacing many frost damaged bricks. The main corridors have all been repainted and re-carpeted and 7 classrooms received completely new tables. The site looks the smartest it has ever looked!

Uniform -Thank you for supporting our uniform policy-

the children look very smart Please do **name** all items of school uniform to help us try to return lost items to owners. **We still get far too much un-named, un-claimable lost property which we cannot easily store.** Lost property is kept in the entrance lobby and sometimes also put out on tables at the start / end of the school day- please claim it!

Meet the teacher open evening

Our autumn 'Meet the Teacher' evening will take place on Thursday 24th September between 5pm and 7pm.

There's no need to make an appointment. This is a chance, which I hope you will take, to come along and meet your child's new teacher and see their classroom and some early work as well as the wider school.

We have also asked a variety of visitors to the evening – please do visit the Infant hall, where they will be based.

- The ever popular **cut price** children's book sale is back again -many books half price or less.
- Our School photographer from a company called 'The School Photographer' will also be present and offering family and group photos- so a great chance to include people in a photo who wouldn't normally be able to attend
- Some of our school kitchen team will also be present with samples of some popular school meals and information about menus.

Please do not park on site.

Individual school photos All of our school children will have an individual photograph taken and one

with their brothers and sisters in the usual way **during the school day on 24th September**

Harvest Festival Wednesday 14th October – 9.30

As a school community we believe it is important to try to support others. At our annual Harvest Festival in recent years we have supported local charities.

This year we have agreed to support the work of CAVS based in Thundersley but working throughout Castle Point. They do a variety of work including organising and distributing emergency food parcels for families in crisis or need. We will be asking for dry goods to be sent in- full details later. Parents of Early Years and Year 1 and 2 are very welcome to attend the service in the school hall.



Parking – a reminder Please remember that we cannot offer parking or vehicular access to the school site for parents during or after the school day. Thank you for parking off site and helping to keep congestion to a minimum and also helping to keep the site as safe as possible for all. Please remember not to park in the bus stop, the access road behind or beside the local shops, but use instead Richmond (free until 9.30 and between 3.00 and 4.00) or the WRVS car park.

Open Door Policy- I would like to remind everyone that parents are always welcome to come into school to speak to staff. If you ever have a problem, query or issue or need to pass on some information please come in and speak to the appropriate person in school. You will often find it easier **after school** when more time is available. Making an appointment via the school office or by writing a note will also help to ensure the person you need to speak to is available and can give you the time that you need. The office will always take urgent messages or pass on information.

Coffee morning and informal 'open' parents forum meeting

On Wednesday 23rd September at 9.00am. in the library. The PTA has again kindly agreed to hold a coffee morning in aid of



MacMillan Cancer Support's 'Largest Coffee

Morning' campaign. We have also decided to make this our termly informal parents' forum meeting. This is an opportunity for all parents to have a chat with myself, Mrs Barber the Deputy Head and possibly other key staff and/ or Governor representatives. There is no written agenda, just a chance to ask questions, raise concerns and demystify any issues you may have etc. (or just have a coffee, chat, meet other parents and eat some cake!)

School admissions September 2016

Was your child (or do you know of a local child) born between 1st September 2011 and August 31st 2012? If yes, then they are due to start school in September 2016. Please note the online application period for admissions for entry to school next year begins 9th November and closes 15th January 2016. Please see Essex County Council website www.essexcc.gov.uk/admissions. or call Phone 0845 603 2200. If you need a place next year it is ***vital*** that you apply through the central Essex County Council admissions system, not through the School although we are always available to answer questions and to help.

Open Mornings-We will be holding two 'open' sessions for **prospective Early Years** pupils and their parents to visit the school. The first is on Wednesday October 21st at 9.15- 10.30. The second, **alternative** session is on Friday 6th November at 9.15- 10.30. We will be running tours of the school and providing useful information. If you would like to come, please 'book a place' with the school office- tel. 01268 793276

Dinner Money Please remember that dinner money is £2.00 a day, (£10 per week) for ***junior children***. Please try to pay on a Monday. Please can we also remind everyone to send the money to class in a labelled envelope (one envelope per child, it is difficult for the teacher to split monies between classes and confusing for the office staff) **please avoid handing dinner money directly to the office.**

If you believe your child is entitled to a free school meal please ensure you have completed an application form- full details from Mrs Hartland/ Mrs Price at the school office. Such application provide essential additional funding for our school budget.

Please help us by labelling all lunch boxes on the outside with your child's full name and class, they often look alike!

Remember please no nuts or nut products to be brought into school or placed in lunch boxes

Contact details - Please remember to keep the school updated with your contact details, including

e-mail addresses and mobile numbers, so that we can always contact you if we need to.

Fruit at break time- Junior aged children are encouraged to bring in fruit daily- please only send in fruit, (not biscuits etc.) please do not put break time fruit in lunch boxes as these are hard to access at playtime. Infant children already receive fruit daily in School. We also encourage all children to bring a water bottle to school daily.

Absence reminders-If your child is going to be away from school ***please can you ring*** the school and leave a message in our absence mailbox (answer phone). Please also follow up with a note to the class teacher on return to school.

Punctuality Please help your child to arrive on time for school so that good habits are created and no learning time is lost. Children who are late will have to enter through the school office and have their names entered in the late book. Being late can disrupt a whole class's learning.

Please remember we make use of Twitter - @SouthBenPri, our school website and Parent mail to distribute information and keep you up to date.

Holidays and Attendance

As already advised holidays cannot be authorised during term time. Leave of absence may only be requested for ***truly exceptional, usually '1 off' circumstances.***

Further new legislation comes into force this autumn regarding attendance. Currently, children with more than 15 % absence are considered to be persistent absentees. This number will now reduce to 10 % - around 19 days absence! In short a 10% absence rate could quickly lead to a fixed penalty fine starting at £60 per parent, per child and/or a supervision order.

Please value education and each day in school by ensuring that your child is in school unless they are really too ill to be here or there are truly exceptional circumstances.

A detailed diary of important school dates for the year is being sent out with this newsletter. Some dates are not yet fully confirmed and further details will be sent out in due course.

Please note that due to staff training the school will closed on 25th September and 23rd October.

Yours sincerely

DJ Carver