

Friday 19th October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting first half term of the new school year. We have been so busy and have such a lot to celebrate.

**STAFFING**

After half term we will be welcoming our first office apprentice Mr Graham Bright. We hope you will join us in welcoming him to the Old Stratford family. Although Graham’s main role will to be helping in the office, he will also be spending time getting to know the children on trips and special events.

**NEW READING INITIATIVE**

Over the next few months, we will be introducing a new reading scheme into school for KS2 children. Historically, children have worked through our reading scheme in KS1 then moved onto becoming a free reader. In the next few months, this will change as we introduce our KS2 scheme. The children will be assessed, then transferred onto an appropriate level of book according to their **comprehension level**. Our KS2 scheme will focus on comprehension skills enabling the children to take a quiz after reading the book to check their understanding. We hope this scheme will ensure children read appropriate books but also encourage more able readers to stretch themselves and explore stories that are more complex.

**HARVEST ASSEMBLY**

Thank you to all those who came to help celebrate Harvest. The children did a fabulous job, sharing their work and singing their favourite harvest songs. Thank you to everybody who sent in fruit and vegetables for our display. These were very gratefully received by Community Fridge in Wolverton.

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

Our coffee morning was a huge success with many delicious cakes received as donations. Many thanks to everybody who donated in various different ways whether it be through money in envelopes, donations for cakes and refreshments or baking and donating cakes. The total amount raised was £565.24.

**SPORTS NEWS**

I would like to say a big thank you to Miss Griffin for organising many sporting events already this term. Cross Country has been a big hit with the children and we are looking forward to the team competing on Saturday 20th October at the Milton Keynes Bowl. The children in Years 5 and 6 also enjoyed competing in both Netball and Football matches against New Bradwell School.

**SCIENCE DAY**

On Friday 5th October, we held a Science Day in school. The children enjoyed participating in a number of different experiments throughout the day but the best part was most definitely a visit from a real scientist who demonstrated some amazing scientific experiments creating an amazing display of awe and wonder.

**SCHOOL DISCO**

A big thank you to OSSA for organising the school disco. The children had a very enjoyable time dancing to the latest hits as well as some all-time favourites! The first tuck shop was held this week and proved to be very popular.

**PARENTMAIL**

I would like to thank all those parents who have registered with ParentMail already. This fantastic tool enables us to keep parents informed without the use of paper. We can now send almost all of our communications digitally, bringing with it considerable time and cost savings. Payments can also be made through ParentMail reducing the amount of money held on site. If you have not been able to register with ParentMail yet, please speak to the school office and check that we have your current email address.

**ATTENDANCE**

The Grand Union Trust are working in partnership with parents to improve school attendance.   **We would like to congratulate the many parents who make sure their children attend school regularly.** The Grand Union Partnership abide by a strict Attendance Policy, which will be enforced if the following guidelines are not followed.

It is a parent’s legal responsibility to ensure their children receive appropriate education.  Failing to send your child to school regularly without good reason is a criminal offence.

Absence disrupts the education of the individual pupil and the whole class. Are you aware that children who do not attend regularly:

* do not achieve well in exams and can fall behind their peers
* find it difficult to maintain friendships
* are more likely to become involved in disruptive behaviour
* miss out on opportunities in further education

Absence can only be authorised by the Head Teacher**,**within the boundaries set by the Education (Pupil Registrations) (England) Regulations 2006.

***You may be aware that Head Teachers may not authorise leave during term time except where the circumstances are exceptional.  If your child takes leave that has not been authorised by the Head Teacher, it will result in the absence being recorded as unauthorised and legal action may be taken.***

Please remember that parental illness, going shopping, visiting family, holidays or not wanting to go to school, are not acceptable reasons to be absent. All of these will be recorded as unauthorised absence, including if your child arrives at school after the close of registration. Children should arrive at school at 8.55am and register closes at 9.05am.

Family emergencies need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members. Being at school, friendship with peers and support from staff can provide children with stability. The routine of school offers a safe and familiar background during times of uncertainty.

**Legal action that may be taken include:**

**Issuing penalty notices**: Each parent receives a penalty notice for each child who has unauthorised absence. The penalty is £60 or £120 depending on how soon payment is made.  So, if there are two parents and two children the total penalties could be up to £480. Failure to pay may result in prosecution.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Friday 1st November**

Individual Photos

**Thursday 8th November**

Y3 Golf Trip

**Friday 9th November**

Y4 Golf Trip

**Friday 16th November**

Y2 Class Assembly

3.30pm Lantern Making

**Friday 23rd November**

Walk In Morning

Y5 & 6 Black Country Museum Trip

**Tuesday 4th December**

Y1 & 2 London Trip

**Friday 7th December**

VIP Assembly (Invite Only)KS1 Dress Rehearsal

**Monday 10th December**

KS2 Dress Rehearsal

**Tuesday 11th December**

KS1 Afternoon Performance

**Wednesday 12th December**

KS2 Afternoon Performance

KS1 Evening performance

**Thursday 13th December**

KS2 Evening Performance

**Monday 17th December**

Christmas Lunch

**Wednesday 19th December**

Last day of school for pupils **2.30pm**