Thursday 2nd July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can hardly believe that we are coming to the end of the year and what a strange year it has been! It has managed to creep up on me, as I have not had all the normal cues that we are coming to the end. At this point of the year, I would be giving you dates of concerts, assemblies and leavers’ assemblies. We would have been celebrating the successful residentials that the children attended and the children’s participation in Sport’s Day. It is a real shame that the children have missed so many of the exciting opportunities that we had planned for them but we must not forget the positives that this year has brought.

Let’s not forget what the children and the rest of the school community had achieved before the Lockdown. Here is a brief list of all the successes that we should remember and be proud of:

* Y5 & Y6 Duxford Air Museum visit
* A successful MacMillan Coffee Morning
* Y5/Y6 VE Day
* OSSA Grounds Day
* Christmas Card designing
* Harvest Festival Assembly
* Cross Country Competitions
* OSSA Discos
* Pupil initiated Cake Bake Off for Alzheimer’s
* OSSA’s Winter Event
* OSSA’s Winter Raffle
* Christmas Nativity
* Christmas Concert
* Lantern Making
* Pupil initiated Food Bank collections
* Clubs – Yoga, Football, Dodgeball, Cricket, Multi Sports, Cookery, Art, Tennis
* Y5 Swimming
* MK Dons visit
* Football matches
* Netball matches
* Dodgeball matches
* Y3 Egypt Assembly
* Bikeability
* Forest School
* Pupil initiated Diabetes Awareness Day
* World Book Day
* Greener World Day
* Walk In Mornings
* Celebration Assemblies

Therefore, as you can see, although we interrupted the year quite abruptly in March we managed to fit in quite a lot in the previous terms.

I am very proud to have so many children back in school. Reception, Year 1, 5 and 6 are all in full time. However, I am delighted that we have been able to hold outdoor sessions for Year 2, 3 and 4. We could definitely see a difference in mood from when the children arrived to when they left to go home. There were some very nervous faces on arrival but as they left to go home, they seemed a lot more relaxed.

Obviously at this point, we do not know what the situation will look like come September. However, the government have confirmed that all children will return in September as a mandatory requirement but just in larger protective bubbles of 30. Wrap around care such as Breakfast Club and Activity Club will not be in place for September so please make sure that you can make alternative arrangements until the situation changes. We will not be providing hot lunches in September but we hope to get these up and running as soon as the guidance allows for it. Your child will be able to book a packed lunch as usual in the morning. Please ensure that your ParentPay has adequate funds if you choose this option. Arrival times and pick up times will still need to be staggered as will break times and lunch times. I will send further details regarding these timings as soon as possible.

**New Intake Arrangements**

We are really looking forward to welcoming our new Reception Class in September and we understand that they have not had the usual transition that we normally provide. However, we are hoping to give each child 2 short sessions in school the week commencing the 7th September. Mr Andrews will be in touch to offer your child a morning and an afternoon session during this week. Mr Andrews and Mrs Hoddinott would then like to meet with each child’s parents before the children start full time **Thursday the 17th September 2020.** It is likely that Reception will start school at 8.30 and finish at 3pm but this will be confirmed nearer the time.

Class teachers for each year group next year are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year Group** | **Teacher** | **Teaching Assistant** |
| **EYFS** | Mr Andrews | Mrs Hoddinott |
| **1** | Mrs Wilkins | Mrs Clarke/Mrs Ansell |
| **2** | Mrs Lewis/Mrs Herman | Miss Simpkins/Mrs Tait |
| **3** | Mrs Faraday | Mrs Friell |
| **4** | Mrs Holmes/Mrs Wilsdon | Mrs Hughes |
| **5** | Mr Webb | Mrs Hawes |
| **6** | Mrs Else | Mrs Watt |

The children will be unable to have a Transition Day this year.

Unfortunately, we say goodbye to four members of staff at the end of this year. Miss Griffin will be leaving us as she has been offered a promotion for a role at Jubilee Wood School. This is a fantastic opportunity for Miss Griffin and we wish her well. One of the advantages of her working in the Trust is that we will continue to see her. I would like to thank her for all she has done to help develop our PE curriculum. We will be sad to see her go but she deserves this wonderful opportunity in recognition for all her hard work.

We also say goodbye to Mr Bright. He will also be venturing to pastures new where he will be running his own office in New Bradwell’s Special Needs Department. Mr Bright joined our team as an apprentice so it is fantastic to see that he is ready for a new challenge and again stays within the Trust. He has been a pleasure to work with and I know staff, pupils and parents alike will miss him.

Mr Dupre will also be leaving us at the end of this term. He will be beginning his journey as a Newly Qualified Teacher. It has been a pleasure having him learn his craft here at Old Stratford Primary and I know he will make a wonderful teacher – any school will be lucky to have him.

Moreover, we also say goodbye to Miss Cannon. Miss Cannon has worked in a number of roles across the school from Breakfast Club to Teaching Assistant. I would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her well for the future as she pursues her career working with children.

Finally, let us not forget that we will be saying goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 class of children. This has been a particularly challenging time for them as they are unable to say goodbye in the usual way. They have impressed me with their maturity taking things in their stride, showing that they are truly ready for their secondary school.

Reports will take a slightly different format this year. You will receive a report for your child from your child’s class teacher and they will comment on how your child was doing. However, they will only comment on whether they were *on track* to meet the expected standard by the end of the year. Obviously, we can only report what your child actually achieved by the end of March. Reports will be sent out electronically using ParentMail, before the end of term.

**Arrangements for the last day of term**

Please note the collection time for your child’s class for the last day of term **(Friday 17th July)**

**12.00 pm – EYFS A (Mr Andrews)**

**12.10 pm – EYFS B (Mrs Lewis/Mrs Herman)**

**12.00 pm – Year 1 (Mrs Wilkins)**

**12.10pm – Year 5 (Mrs Faraday)**

**12.30 pm – Children of Key workers (Mrs Wilsdon)**

**12.40 pm – 6A (Mrs Else)**

**12.50 pm – 6B (Mr Webb)**

Please check your emails and the School Jotter regularly over the coming weeks for any updates about arrangements for September.

I would like to thank you all for the support you have given the school this year especially throughout this challenging time. The emails of encouragement, thanks and support have been overwhelming and very well received from all the staff.

Best wishes,

Mrs Sarbutts