Tuesday 19th October 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to your newsletter update. It hardly seems possible that we are already about to reach the half term break – doesn’t time fly! It has been lovely to see all the children settling into their new year groups and enjoying a range of learning activities across the curriculum. After half term each class will be continuing with their historical themed learning within their topic lessons.

We are pleased to let you know that the measures that we have taken to reduce the transmission of Covid 19 within the school community have been successful, at the time of writing we have no positive cases across our children and staff. Thank you for your support with the measures we have taken, whilst we hope to be able to relax some of these after half term it seems very likely that we may need to re-introduce them at some point. We will of course keep you informed.

**OSSA**

We are pleased to announce that plans are afoot to reintroduce some of our social and fundraising activities during the coming school year, these will led by our school association OSSA. They are now looking for volunteers to get involved. Here’s a quick message from the team:

*OSSA would like to say welcome back to all of our children and staff and a huge welcome to all of our new children in Reception. With the start of a new school year it can only mean one thing, new opportunities to join the committee and register your interest in volunteering at our events!*

*Over the last year fundraising has been particularly difficult due to all of the restrictions in place to keep everyone safe. We do still need to be cautious which does mean some events are still unable to take place at the moment, but there are still many things we can do and this is where we need you!*

*If you are interested in joining the committee or volunteering at events please send us an email to* [*ossa@oldstratford.northants.sch.uk*](mailto:ossa@oldstratford.northants.sch.uk)

**Freestyle**

Our Freestyle Before and After School Activity Clubs are proving very popular with children and parents alike.

The clubs after school are:

Monday – Dance

Tuesday – Gymnastics

Wednesday – Dodgeball

Thursday – Football

Friday – Basketball

If you would like to book to book a place for your child onto one or more of these clubs, you will need to go onto the Freestyle website using their website ([www.freestylegroup.co.uk](http://www.freestylegroup.co.uk)). You can then book for the academic year and pay by direct debit. All clubs in the morning and the Monday to Thursday after school clubs are now open to Foundation Stage children. (Friday basketball sessions are likely to be too advanced for them at the moment.)

**School Lunches**

After half term we will be returning to having lunches in the hall so your children will be able to choose their meal on the day. Booking your child in for these meals will continue in the normal way.

We will continue to ensure that year groups are kept apart during their meal times and that there are enhanced cleaning routines between each sitting for lunches. The hall will be kept well ventilated.

**Arrival at School in the Morning**

Thank you for supporting us to ensure that the start of the school day runs smoothly. We will continue with the current arrangements for the time being, but please could you ensure that your child/ children do not arrive on site any earlier than 8.40am as staff will be arriving in the car park up to this time.

**Year 7 School Places**

A reminder for any parent with a child in Year 6. The deadline to apply for your child’s place at their new school in September is **Sunday 31st October**.

**International Stammering Awareness Day.**

This Friday, 22nd October is International Stammering Awareness Day. We are supporting our children to build awareness of what stammering is and how they can help to support anyone with a stammer. Staff will be using materials from support organisations to deliver their teaching. This activity will be part of our Wellbeing Day which is planned for the last day of this term.

**Wellbeing**

We have long believed that it is very important to support children’s wellbeing. This has become even more important in recent times. Health and wellbeing is supported in a number of ways throughout the school year including through curriculum activities and individual support for pupils. To further enhance this work we are planning a wellbeing day on the last day of this term. In addition, we have our very own furry member of staff returning to us again next term – Bonnie the dog! She is a trained and qualified therapy dog. Her owner Mrs Wilsdon will be bringing her into school to support wellbeing activities across the school. We are hoping that, over time, all the children will get the opportunity to work alongside Bonnie.

**Science**

Plans are now taking shape linked to our new science hub in the revamped mobile classroom. Staff are busy ensuring that the best quality resources stored there are now being rehomed ready for us to start the process of decorating and refurbishing the inside of the building as needed. If any parent has a burning desire to support us with this project, we would be happy to hear from you. Please contact the school office in the first instance.

As part of our science curriculum this term Year 5 have had the opportunity to have chicks in their classroom. Children have been able to watch the eggs hatch then see how rapidly the chicks have grown. These sort of real-life experiences, really make learning memorable for the children.

**Young Voices**

In the coming months Year 5 and 6 will be busy preparing to take part in the Young Voices concert at the at Resort Worlds Arena in Birmingham on Monday 10th January 2022. This is an unforgettable event for the children to experience and we are all really looking forward to being involved in it again. If you would like to attend this event it is advisable to book your tickets early. Please see the information sent via Parent Mail on 18th October for ticket booking information.

We wish you a very happy and relaxing half term break.

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