



## **Staffing**

Deb Malton has decided to retire this year. She will be finishing the school year and leaving us at the end of July. This is a significant event for us as Mrs Malton has worked here for 16 years; she has taught from Nursery through to Year 3 and has had many roles, including deputy headteacher and headteacher. She will be sorely missed!

Kirsty Maxwell (Key Stage 1 TA) has taken on an administrative role at St Mary and St Giles South site at short notice. We agreed an immediate transfer to support Mr Salter and his team.

We are currently recruiting for a teacher, to replace Deb Malton, for September and a teaching assistant, to replace Kirsty Maxwell, for March.

## **Reading Week**

Thank you for your involvement in our reading week. We have had grandparents and parents in school telling stories. Children have enjoyed visits to Stony Stratford library, supported by parent volunteers. Thank you also to our hardworking and dedicated Parents' Association for organising the sponsored read.

## **Attendance**

It is clear that regular and uninterrupted attendance supports children's academic progress and social relationships. Schools are expected to achieve overall attendance of above 96%. Our attendance figures were a key area of investigation during our inspection. We are expected not to authorise holiday or days out and to be contacting parents as soon as attendance falls below the 95%. We appreciate parents applying for leave in advance, even though it is usually not in our power to authorise the absence. We are expected to know where children are when they are not at school. For this reason, an early morning call to let us know that your child is absent due to illness is also much appreciated.

**Best wishes** to Charlie Plowright (Moles Class) and Vicky Krater (Foxes Class) who will be returning to their placement schools after half term. We have enjoyed working with them both and have been grateful for the additional provision.

## **MK50**

We celebrated Milton Keynes birthday with a special assembly and with our Concrete Cows art project. Do come into school to see the display of designs and cows in our main corridor. We were grateful to local businesses for helping with our Stony Stratford 'cow hunt'.

## **Adventures in Mathematics**

This term, our Erasmus project is focused on using mathematics across other curriculum areas. This included work on pattern when designing our cows.

Alice Cottam and Kim Campbell will be visiting Strandskolan (Beach School, Sweden) in March to observe maths lessons and share approaches to cross curricular mathematics. Sonia Camp and Jayne van Rooyen will be covering Moles and Owls classes.

## **Heating Project**

Although the heating in our Edwardian block is still functioning, its age means that parts are hard to come by. Fortunately the Local Authority has allocated funding to replace the system this year. This is a huge project which will last from April through to the end of August. We have begun meeting with contractors to organise the project phases. Everything will be done to minimise disruption to our school day. We do currently have capacity to move classrooms around as we have two spare rooms set up with all of the necessary equipment. We will keep you informed of any changes in routines.

## **Mr Thompson is about to have a baby!**

Dave will have a short parental leave (1-2 weeks depending on half term) when the baby arrives. His absence will be covered by Jayne van Rooyen.



## Dates for your diaries

See also: [www.russell-street-school.co.uk](http://www.russell-street-school.co.uk)

10-2-17	Last day of the half term
20-2-17	Back to school ( <b>MONDAY</b> )
21-2-17	Red Phoenix working with Year 1 and 2
22-2-17	PA Event 'Juggling Jim' 3pm-4pm
24-2-17	Nursery application deadline
27-2-17	Fairtrade Week
3-3-17	World Book Day Celebrations <u>Come to school dressed as a Grimms Brothers' Fairy Tale Character</u> Fairtrade Tea Party 3pm – all welcome
13-3-17	Year 2 Stony Stratford Library visit
16-3-17	Radcliffe Music Festival (Year 2 choir)
20-3-17	Last week of clubs Erasmus project meeting in Sweden
23-3-17	Nursery Open Morning - 9am to 11am
27-3-17	Spring in the Park Week
28-3-17	Year 2 Safety Centre visit
30-3-17	Class photographs Key Stage 1 Disco 3pm – 4pm *
31-3-17	Last Day of Term

\*Please remember that (for those who have not paid £9 for 3 discos) payment of £3:50 MUST be made at least a week in advance via Parentmail. For health and safety reasons we need to know exactly how many and which children are attending the disco. Last minute applications cannot be accommodated.