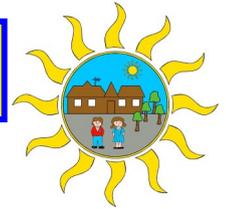


# Stedham Primary Newsletter 5



**17 February 2017**

Dear Parents,

## **Stedham Squirrels**

Following my letter earlier in the week about the school moving back to four classes from September and Squirrels leaving the premises, I thought it wise to clarify a few points.



Firstly, neither I personally nor the school or Local Authority are closing Stedham Squirrels. We have given notice to them that they need to vacate the classroom in July. Squirrels have made the decision to close rather than set up elsewhere (more on that later).

Secondly, although the directive came from an officer in the Local Authority and it is very sad that we can no longer share premises with Squirrels, as Headteacher of this school I support the decision. The LA are not changing us to a four class school. We are already a four class school. We have just been running three classes for the last three years as our number on roll dipped; in order to keep a school in the village we needed to make that decision. But three years later the situation has reversed. There are more children in the area and people are actually coming to view and choosing to apply for our school which is fantastic news.

To put things into context, if we had remained at three classes, in September, poor Mr Noble would have a class made up of 36 children across Year 3, 4, 5 and 6. I cannot see that any parent would have been happy with that situation. Moving back to four classes is academically the best thing for all your children.

Thirdly, the school had hoped that we could continue to work with Squirrels, firstly by helping them to find new premises, helping with the inevitable paperwork, donating items or fundraising for new things to setup elsewhere, etc. We then hoped that once they were es-

tablished they would still come up and use the outside area, come for story time each week and generally keep the links between us going.

We were all very sad on Monday when Squirrels told us they were going to close. But it is clear that there are lots of people who still feel like us and think that there must be something we can do to keep Squirrels going in a different way. I met today with Sarah who is Chair of the Squirrels Committee to explain to her how the school wants to work with them and support them.

The next step is we need to gather a group of people who are willing to come onto this working party and try and make this happen. It could be people who will do the 'behind the scenes' things such as the form filling, finances, etc. or people who would be interested in actually becoming a member of staff or a volunteer, doing the day to day running. Worse case scenario, it may be that after all the research we find that this really isn't viable but at least then everyone can say we tried. If you think you could be one of these people that comes on board to try and save Squirrels, please let me know. Sarah and I are planning to meet again after half term.

Finally, just to clarify, from the moment Squirrels can no longer offer Breakfast Club and After School Care, we will take it on. There will be no break in provision. As a working parent myself I know how essential a service it is.

I hope that this now makes the situation a little clearer for everyone and addresses some of the rumours that are circulating both on the playground and on Social Media. If you have something to ask or say, please come in and do just that. This community should be working in partnership instead of against each other.

## **Parent Forum**

Thursday is apparently not a good day for many so I have rescheduled our postponed parent forum to Wednesday 26th April—sorry it can't be earlier but I have other commit-

ments through March and then it is the holidays! I am planning to go over the E-Safety materials as the turnout for that evening was so poor and I really feel it is an important message that as many people as possible need to hear.

### Coffee Morning

I have put a coffee morning in the diary for **Wednesday 8th March, 9-10am**. Rabbits' Reading mums can join us after reading if they wish!



### Book Week

Remember —Book Week will soon be upon us and we have dressing up day (as a book character) on **Friday 3 March**. Please don't go out and buy expensive costumes and dressing up is **optional**.

### Smoking and Vaping

As you already know, smoking on or directly outside the school grounds is not permitted. It has been brought to my notice by some parents that people are using vape pens on the playground and others are smoking directly outside the school fence. Please could I ask that this does not happen. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

### INSET Days

We have 5 INSET days a year; we have had two in the Autumn term and the third is on Monday 27th February, after half term.

I have now set the dates of the last two INSET Days of the academic year and so I am giving you notice of this. I have decided to allocate them on Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th July, meaning that **the school year for your children will now end on Friday 21st July** and the Year 6 Leavers' Assembly will be brought forward to that date. I hope that five months notice will be enough—it gives the chance to get off on holiday a few days earlier too!

### Changes to the morning routine

Also coming home today is a letter regarding a change to the routine in the morning of coming into school. Please make sure you read this

letter—it is also on the website if it hasn't made it home to you.

We hope the changes will also improve the parking situation in School Lane by employing a more staggered dropping off approach.

We are now officially half way through the academic year. The next half promises to be exciting and action packed with the KS2 production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, an art enrichment week and all the usual things like sports day and the summer fair. Have a very good half term week with your children and we will see you all back on TUESDAY 28th February.

Regards,

*Sally Dreckman*

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Monday 20—Friday 24 February—HALF TERM**

**Monday 27 February—INSET DAY**

**Tuesday 28 February—children back to school**

**Friday 3 March—Book Day Dressing Up**

**Tuesday 7 March and Thursday 9 March —**  
Parent Consultations (details to follow)

**Wednesday 8 March—Coffee Morning 9-10am**

**Tuesday 14 March—KS2 performance for**  
grandparents and villagers 2pm

**Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March—**  
KS2 performance for parents 6pm—details to follow

**Wednesday 29 March—Rabbits' assembly to**  
parents 3pm

**Wednesday 5 April—Welcome Wednesday at**  
3pm and SATs meeting for Y6 children and parents 3.40pm

**Friday 7 April—end of term.**