



Executive Headteacher: Mr G Wilder OBE  
Deputy Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Pryor  
Head of School: Mrs J Barrett

# FURZE NEWS

Newsletter 10 – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,



## **REMINDER: HALF TERM:**

**School closes Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and reopens Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at the usual times.**

## **'I GO TO SCHOOL EVERYDAY' COMPETITION - *Early to bed, early to rise, every day and on time, could win you a prize!*** 😊

In order to enhance our ongoing strategies to improve attendance we hold an 'I go to School every day' competition. This competition is open to all full-time Furze children. As you know, regular attendance at school is very important – every day counts – attending school every day will help our pupils to have the best possible start in life. In order to recognise excellent attendance (in addition to the certificates we issue) we have a prize draw each term for the children who have achieved 100% attendance. There is a termly prize and at the end of the school year we will hold a special prize draw for children who have achieved 100% attendance for the whole school year. Our termly prize this year is a Toys R Us Voucher. The school also has a weekly class winners cup for Key Stage 1 and a weekly class winners attendance teddy for the reception classes. I present the cup and attendance teddy to the appropriate classes with the best attendance for that week. Last week we held the prize draw for the children who have achieved 100% attendance in the Autumn Term at a special assembly. I am very pleased to announce the prize was won by Rehan Ahmed of Hexagon Base. Well done!

## **ABSENCE DUE TO TERM TIME HOLIDAY**

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that a government directive instructs headteachers that they may not authorise term time holiday for pupils. Term time holiday can result in a fine being issued per child to parents by the Local Authority. The law forbidding Term Time Holiday is quite specific and parents are in breach of school regulations when they do this. **Please consider that continuity at school is vital to education and many pupils do not recover easily from the effect of a prolonged absence.**

## **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

If your child's attendance drops below 90% they are considered to be 'Persistently Absent' (PA pupils) as defined by DfE guidelines and our Attendance Officer/EWASS are required to contact parents and take action to ensure that the overall attendance is improved.



## **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

Reminder: On Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January we are holding a whole school Science Day. This will be a dress up day and the theme is 'mad and crazy scientists'. The aim of the day is to get children eager to explore Science and develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about the world around them. Please see our separate letter to parents for full details.

## **CHINESE NEW YEAR SCHOOL DINNER**

Reminder: There will be a change of menu for school dinners on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February to celebrate Chinese New Year. Please see my separate letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> January for more details of the menu options.

## **IMPORTANT SAFETY ISSUES**

Please can parents/carers also ensure that children are properly supervised whilst on the school premises – children must be kept close by your side at all times. All children including pre-school/toddlers are not permitted to climb on railings or use the play equipment and decking before and after school this is due to safety/insurance reasons. Please also be aware that scooters and bikes may not be ridden on the school premises.

## **HEALTH ADVICE REGARDING GRAPES**

We have received information that doctors are advising that grapes should be chopped in half lengthways and ideally in quarter. Young children can choke on whole grapes so this is very important safety advice for all parents.

## **OPEN EVENINGS FOR FULL TIME PUPILS**

Date for your diaries: Open Evenings for full-time pupils for the Spring Term will be held from 3.00pm to 5.30pm from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March to Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March. A separate letter will be sent out before half term offering appointments with your child's class teacher. **NB Open Evening is for PARENTS ONLY – please arrange to have all children minded.**

## **NURSERY PARENTS' CONSULTATION MEETINGS**

Nursery parent consultation meetings will take place throughout the week beginning Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March. These meetings are by appointment only and will provide you with an opportunity to meet with your child's key worker to discuss their progress. Nursery will provide more information to parents nearer the time.



## **SPARE CLOTHING**

All children are required to bring to school some spare clothing in case they need to change – a full change is needed please and must include spare socks/tights and pants/knickers. Spare clothing can be kept in your child's PE bag. Some children have had to borrow



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clothing/underwear from the school recently as they did not have their own change of clothes in school. Please can any loaned items be washed and returned to school. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,  
MRS BARRETT  
Head of School

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## **FURZE INFANTS' SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME 2016/2017**

SPRING HALF TERM 2017

EASTER 2017

MAY DAY 2017

SUMMER HALF TERM 2017

SUMMER 2017

### **LAST DAY OF TERM**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April (1.15pm closure)

**School closed to all pupils Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July (1.15pm closure)

### **FIRST DAY OF TERM**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June

**School opens at 8.45am and closes at 2.45pm (AM Nursery 8.30am to 11.30am/PM Nursery 12.30pm to 3.30pm) unless otherwise notified.**

**In addition Nursery closed to am and pm pupils on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017.**

Any alterations or extra days will be notified separately.