



Spring 1 Newsletter

January 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Happy New Year to all pupils, parents and families from all the staff at Plover Primary School. We hope 2017 brings you health, happiness and everything you could wish for in the forthcoming year.

Your child's class newsletter will be with you shortly, detailing any news, topics and events that directly affect them. This will be detailing their next Home Learning activities that are bespoke to each class/year group.

I also write my own weekly blog that can be accessed via the internet at <http://ploverheadteacher.wordpress.com> The blog gives a weekly update on recent events at school in a more informal style.

It was good to see so many of you at our recent Christmas celebrations. I'm sure you were very proud of all the children who participated. Thanks to the staff and pupils for all their hard work. I do believe KS2 will be hosting a pantomime later in the term. Oh no they won't! I shall look forward to seeing it later in the year.

S P Bowler

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: *The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.*

PUNCTUALITY/LATENESS

The school day starts at 8:50a.m. and finishes at 3:25pm

All children should be in the school playground and in their class lines by 8:45a.m., ready for the start of the school day at 8:50a.m.

Doors are opened at 8:50a.m. and are closed after the last child in the class line is admitted and certainly closed by 8:55a.m. External doors CANNOT be left unlocked after this time to comply with Safeguarding procedures. It is important that your child arrives for school on time. Your child will miss out on valuable school time if they are late.

If your child arrives after 8:50a.m. they must get their registration mark from the school office. School staff will record the child's name, time of arrival and reason for lateness.

Foundation Stage

Children arriving for Foundation Stage 2 are admitted from 8:40a.m. This is to allow parents to be involved in educational activities before school. All parents are expected to leave the school by 8:55a.m. The outside door to the Foundation Stage area is closed at 8:55a.m.

Nursery Sessions

The morning nursery session starts promptly at 8:45a.m. The afternoon session starts promptly at 12:30pm.

School staff, together with the local authority Attendance Team, monitor persistent lateness together with children's attendance.

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance for the previous Autumn half term is 94.3%. This is 2% down on Autumn Term 1 and gives us an overall attendance for Autumn of 95.4%. This is below national averages and does need to improve. We will continue to monitor all children's attendance together with the Local Authority Attendance Team.

Congratulations to 5G for winning the half termly Attendance Shield and the £50 prize money to spend on an activity of their choice. Well done to all the children who achieved 100% attendance for the Autumn term. They will receive their badges shortly. Any child who has 100% attendance for the whole school year will go on an all-expenses paid visit at the end of this school year.

Please let us know if your child is not in school and the reasons why. Ensure any medical appointments are arranged for out of school hours, if possible. Evidence of medical appointments should be brought in to school in the form of appointment cards, letters etc.

PARENTS' EVENING

82% of parents attended recent parents' evening. I know they found the session informative and gave them an up-to-date progress report on their children's recent educational experience. However, we would like to see all parents. Please get in touch if you were unable to attend last term's event.

SCHOOL CAR PARK

Please remember that the school car park is for staff only. There is no parking at any time for parents or families. Thank you for your co-operation.

WINTER WEATHER

As the winter takes hold and the risk of bad weather affecting school life increases, please ensure that we have the correct contact details (especially mobile numbers) on our records. After a recent message alert sent out to parents we are aware that over 20 mobile numbers are no longer active on our system. If you have change your contact details, please let us know.

Parents and carers will be informed of any school closures initially via a text message, and it will be posted on the school website. Information will also be transmitted on local radio stations, Trax FM and Radio Hallam. Please note that these are the only ways of accurately knowing if the school has had to close.

School will NOT post school closure information on social media sites such as Facebook.

SCHOOL MEALS – PARENTPAY – FREE SCHOOL MEALS

All children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 can access a free hot meal at lunchtimes. This is funded by the Government and known as the Universal Infant Free School Meal (UFSM).

"Income based" Free School Meals

If you think you are eligible for Income based Free School Meals please apply to the Local Authority to register, even if your child currently prefers home-made packed lunches. Registering for Free School Meals means that families benefit in other ways such as free milk in school and cheaper residential trips for older children and school receives additional funding from the Government which we can spend on the children's education.

ParentPay

School meals currently cost £2.00 per day/£10.00 per week which must be paid in advance of your child taking any meals. Parents of children in Year 3 to Year 6 should now be paying for school meals using their ParentPay account. If any parents need any assistance with accessing their ParentPay account please call to the school office.



Parents/carers should ensure that they keep their ParentPay account in credit.



PayPoint Card

Any parent unable to make online payments for school meals should ask at the school office for a PayPoint card. PayPoint cards allow parents to make cash payments for school meals at local PayPoint stores. PayPoint cards are specific to a named child and are only for paying for school meals. You will need a PayPoint card for each of your children. The first PayPoint card is supplied free of charge, however, there will be a charge for any lost or damaged cards.

PayPoint payments are recorded on the ParentPay system and can be seen by logging onto your ParentPay account and viewing your payment history online. Parents should be aware that PayPoint transactions can take a number of days to appear on your ParentPay account and they should ensure that their account is always in credit.

SMOKING

As parents are no doubt aware smoking (including E-cigarettes) is not allowed on the school site. Can we also ask that parents/carers DO NOT smoke at the school gates as a courtesy to our children and non-smoking parents/carers.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – SPRING TERM 2017

JANUARY	EVENT
Wednesday 11 th January	Y3/4 - Bike It – Health and Heart Rate
Friday 13 th January	Y5 - Road Safety talks
FEBRUARY	
Friday 3 rd February	Y6 – Circus Day
Tuesday 7 th February	Internet Safety Day
Tuesday 7 th February	KS2 production
Wednesday 8 th February	KS2 production
Wednesday 15 th February	Merit A Assembly
Wednesday 15 th February	Bike It – Puncture repairs
Thursday 16 th February	Merit B Assembly
Friday 17 th February	Report Cards out
Friday 17 th February	Break up for Half Term
Monday 27 th February	School reopens at 8:50a.m.
MARCH	
Tuesday 2 nd March	World Book Day
Friday 10 th March	School closed to pupils
Monday 13 th March	Science Week
Monday 13 th March	Bike It – Big Pedal Launch
Friday 24 th March	Bike It – BMX Giro bike break
Monday 27 th March	Parents' Evening week
APRIL	
Wednesday 5 th April	Merit A Assembly
Thursday 6 th April	Merit B Assembly
Friday 7 th April	Fun Morning
Friday 7 th April	BunnyRun
Friday 7 th April	Break Up for Easter break
Monday 24 th April	School reopens after Easter break
<p>Some of these dates and times may be subject to change. Other activities may be added at a later date. Any changes will be notified to you in due course.</p>	

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