



# Autumn News



## Pen Mill Infant and Nursery Academy

20 October 2017

Issue 1

### Message from Mrs Coghlan, Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

The children have been amazing this half term and should feel very proud of all of the learning they have completed. It is lovely to visit classrooms and be greeted by such enthusiastic learners who want to tell you about what they have been learning. Thank you for your support as parents; we really appreciate it.

We are always looking at ways to improve safeguarding and as such we will be requesting that mobile phones are not used whilst you are on the school premises. We hope this will also give your child the welcome they deserve at the end of a busy day.

*'Greet your child with a smile, not a mobile.'*



What a wonderful display of produce we received this year for our harvest celebrations. Pupils sang songs and recited poems in St Michael's Church—well done to all the children and staff who clearly put so much effort into practising. It was lovely to see so many parents, grandparents and friends at Church. We hope you enjoyed the morning. All our donations of produce and the collection will go to the Lords Larder.

I hope that you can see the difference the improvements to the school are making to the overall environment. We look forward to the next stage of improvements as mentioned later in the newsletter.

Hope you all have a great half term and enjoy spending time with your lovely children. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

## Weekly Update - week commencing 16th October 2017

All of the information on this page can be found on:

- our website at [www.penmillinfants.co.uk](http://www.penmillinfants.co.uk)
- the playground screen
- the reception classes noticeboard

## Golden Book Pupils

Carle	Maisie & Ralph
Waddell	Chloe & Harry
Sharratt	Abigail & Aoife-Mai
Potter	Scott & Coco
Bond	Erich & Iyla-Rose
Donaldson	Madison & Ollie
Cole	Arif & Noah

## Attendance

Pen Mill Academy attendance - 94%

Highest class attendance - Cole class 96%

## House Points

Well done to Barrington house who achieved the most house points this week with 103 points.

## Upcoming Dates - all dates can be found on our website

Friday 20th October	Last day of term
Mon 23rd—Fri 27th October	Half term holiday
Monday 30th October	Inset day
Tuesday 31st October	Children return to school
Monday 6th November	Individual school photos
Thursday 9th November	Flu Vaccinations

## School Improvements

It has been a very busy year for improving our school. Last September began with brand new toilets for both children and staff and this September has seen the project to replace the remaining wooden framed windows completed. The classrooms are light and bright and we will now be able to ensure the temperature is at a comfortable level for the children all year round.

In between we have improved the safety of our site with new fencing and side gate, renovated the hall floor and started the first stage to replace our internal doors.

With our lovely Victorian school we hope to maintain its history and character whilst also recognising how the building needs to develop to meet the needs of children being educated in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To this end we will be looking at funding to support future projects including our outside areas to provide a fun, stimulating and exciting environment for your children.

We look forward to updating you every half term.  
Karen Underhill  
Business Lead

Hall Floor - work in progress



Hall Floor – completed



Window replacement - work in progress



Window replacement – completed



## School Gateway

Thank you to all the parents who have already signed up to the School Gateway which we will be fully launching after half term.

If any parents are experiencing problems with this service please check with the school office that the email address and mobile phone number we hold in our records is correct.

We are aware that some parents are experiencing problems setting up their School Gateway account where they have children at other schools. This can be overcome by ensuring that the email address and mobile phone number held at all schools is exactly the same.

## Flu Vaccinations

Letters will be sent out over the half term to parents with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 from the NHS South Central & West Commissioning Support Unit. They will be offering the flu vaccination which will be taking place at school on Thursday 9th November.

Please return your consent form to the school office as soon as possible.

## Do you have a child due to start school in September 2018?

If your child was born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 you need to apply for a school place before the closing date of 15th January 2018.

For further information you can view the "Starting School—A Guide For Parents" booklet and apply on line at: - [www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions) or you can request a paper application from Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

## Important information for Year 2 Parents

Parents with children in Year 2 child need to apply for a junior school place before the closing date of 15th January 2018.

Apply on line at: - [www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions) or you can request a paper application from Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

## School Photographs

The school photographer will be visiting us on Monday 6th November to take the children's Individual school photos.

## Reception - Sharratt & Waddell class

The children in reception have made a wonderful start to their school lives. We have been very impressed by their readiness to learn and their polite and thoughtful behaviour. In the first half of term we have been concentrating on the skills that will support the children for the rest of the year. We have practised using a knife and fork, putting on and doing up our coats and getting changed for PE as well as learning all our phase 2 phonic sounds, writing our first and last names and playing lots of games with numbers.



The children have really enjoyed exploring our learning areas and we have enjoyed watching them build with the large construction and cook in the mud kitchen.

## Year 1 - Bond & Potter class

Wow! What an exciting first half term we have had together. It has been a pleasure getting to know your child and how they learn best. It has also been a pleasure to meet so many parents at our parents evening. It was wonderful to receive such positive feedback about your child's learning and about our school. We hope to continue to develop our parent partnership with you all throughout this academic year.

We hope that your child has enjoyed learning about the United Kingdom, Antarctica and Egypt. They especially enjoyed our food tasting lessons!



We will be sharing more photographs of your child's learning, next term on Tapestry. Our topic for next term is 'Fire Fire!' We have a very special visit to our local fire station and we will be creating a mock up of the Great Fire of London.

Our topic web and new homework challenges will be sent home during the first week back from half term. Enjoy your half term and we look forward to exploring our new topic with you and your child soon.

Guided reading will begin after half term, therefore can reading books be brought into school every day, thank you.



Updates from Nursery and Year 2 will be in the next half term newsletter