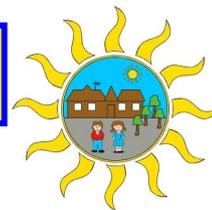


Stedham Primary Newsletter 1

14 September 2017



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year. I have already spoken to many of you over the first week and a half but I hope that you are all well and enjoyed time with your children over the summer.

Uniform

Thank you for returning your children to school looking so smart in the correct uniform. As you will know, this is a focus area for us and so we appreciate your continued support in ensuring your children come to school in the correct uniform, including shoes. A reminder about correct uniform can be found on our website. Please can I remind you that **all items** including PE kits, coats and especially sweatshirts need to be named.

PE Kits

A few children do not have their kits in school. Please ensure that full PE kit is kept in school **at all times**. Again, a reminder that we expect children to be in the correct PE kit as per our uniform policy.

Earrings

For Health and Safety reasons children **are not permitted to wear earrings during PE lessons**. The only exception to this is during the first 6 weeks after ears have been pierced when the earrings cannot be removed. For these 6 weeks the earrings should be covered with surgical tape such as micropore; the expectation is that parents provide this tape which can be bought from any chemist.

Once the 6 week period has passed, all earrings should be removed for PE—can we suggest perhaps sending your child in with a small pot where they can safely keep them. If they are unable to remove and replace them themselves then perhaps they could keep earrings out on PE days as this is not something we can do for them.

Finally, earrings should be **small studs only**.

Leave of Absence

Please can I remind you that as of September 2012 you are no longer entitled to take holiday in term time. If you still choose to take your child out of school without authorisation, once the accumulated absences reach 10 sessions (5 full days) you will be referred to the Local Authority who may serve you with a fixed penalty notice which is currently £120 per parent per child (reduced to £60 per parent per child if paid in the first 21 days), depending on circumstances such as attendance levels.

If you need to take leave for extenuating circumstances such as a bereavement or a family reason, this should be discussed with me before you request a leave of absence form from the office. If your child needs to attend a medical appointment, a leave of absence form should also be completed.

As a reminder, our Attendance and Absence Policy is available on our website or a copy can be requested from the school office.

INSET Days

We have taken our one (of 5) INSET days already at the beginning of this term. Our next INSET day is **Friday 20 October**—the last day before the October half term week when all the Rother Valley Schools are working together. The third INSET day will be Monday 19 February 2018 (the day after half term).

The dates of the remaining 2 INSET days will be set later in the year to take place before we break up in July—I will let you know as soon as possible when they will be.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

I would like to continue with our tradition of hosting a Macmillan Coffee event to raise money for the charity. This will take place on Friday 29 September, 9-10am. It will be advertised to the local community too. If you could help me with setting up, serving or clearing away I would be most appreciative. **I would also welcome offers to bake so we have something to serve!**



Free School Meals

If you have a child in Reception up to Year 2, they are entitled to a Universal Infant Free School Meal. Many people therefore do not think they need to claim for Free School Meals if they are entitled (e.g. they are in receipt of benefits).

I would urge anyone who knows or thinks that they may be entitled to Free School Meals to apply for them if they have not already done so. This can be discussed confidentially with Mrs Brett in the school office. Eligible children bring additional funding into school which is used to support their academic progress. Also, parents of children in receipt of FSM are not asked for voluntary contributions for school trips. Whether your child is already eligible for a Universal Infant Free School Meal or they are in Key Stage 2 and have sandwiches because you know they won't eat a hot meal, please seriously

consider applying if you think you are entitled.

Parking

A brief reminder about parking, in particular for our new parents. Please do not park or drive onto grass verges outside people's houses. They are not public land and the grass may be churned up. Please do not double park as the lane is narrow and then other cars cannot pass. Please do not park in or across the driveways of our neighbours. Please drive slowly along School Lane and maintain high levels of vigilance as there are many people walking that have to walk into the road around the parked cars. Finally, please do not park on the yellow zig zag lines or in the school driveway as this reduces visibility and also access to the site in an emergency.



As a reminder, the Walking Bus runs every morning from the A272 lay-by, leaving at 8.50am. This is becoming more and more popular, with daily numbers regularly over 10. This is fantastic and long may it continue once the weather worsens—we'll be there every day still!

Although we can't operate a walking bus at the end of the day, people can still park in the lay-by and walk down to school which further alleviates the parking problem. We have grown as a school over the last 2 years which is great, but now many families drive from Midhurst or further afield to get to us which compounds the problem we already had. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Fundraising

Over the coming half term we will be fundraising for three different places. I realise that constantly being asked for money is an issue so if I forewarn you now, maybe you can decide which of the causes you want to support:

Friday 22 September—Jeans for Genes Day—wear jeans to school in exchange for £1 (still school uniform on the top half!)

Friday 29 September—Macmillan Coffee Morning
2-13 October—Monetary Donations for Harvest which will be used to support our link school in Kenya.

Security Gate

Our security gate was damaged last term by being pushed right back so we have now had a bolt installed so it can be held at a 90 degree angle. If you are the first to open the gate at 8.45am or 3.20pm, if you remember, we'd appreciate it if you could bolt it rather than push right back to keep open.

Staffing

We appointed a new TA to start work in Owls class from September but over the summer she was offered a post at her previous school which she accepted so we are now re-advertising. In the meantime, the post is being covered by a temporary TA

from the supply agency.

Welcome Wednesday

We are slightly changing the timing of Welcome Wednesdays this year. They will now run from 3.15-3.45pm. At Welcome Wednesday you will be able to look at all your children's books and work. The books will no longer be out to look at during parents evenings in November and March as we are short on space now we run our After School Club from the hall.

Behaviour

From the start of term we have made some more changes to our behaviour policy in terms of how we reward good behaviour. We no longer have Star Book Certificates but we now have Dojo Champion Certificates—parents of recipients will be contacted to celebrate this via the Dojo messaging so please do sign up—speak to your class teacher if you are unsure.

Library Service Reading Challenge

If your child completed this over the summer and would like to bring in their medal to celebrate, we will do this as a 'job lot' on Friday 22 September.

Forest School

Parents have been asking about this—yes we will be doing it again this year but are just sorting out the logistics. We will let you know when we know!

Have a good weekend when it arrives.

Regards

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 25 September—FOSS AGM 3.30pm

Tuesday 26 September—Rabbits and Owls visit to Porchester Castle

Wednesday 27 September—Year 6 Experience Day at MRC

Friday 29 September—Macmillan Coffee Morning 9-10am—all welcome!

Friday 29 September—FOSS Film Night

Friday 22 September—Jeans for Genes Day

Tuesday 10 October—Harvest Festival service at Stedham Church at 2pm—letter to follow nearer the date

Friday 29 September—Macmillan Coffee Morning 9-10am

Wednesday 18 October—Welcome Wednesday 3.15-3.45pm—note new time!

Wednesday 18 October—FOSS non uniform day

Thursday 19 October—Break up for half term (as Friday 20 October is INSET)