



Newsletter: October 2017

September's Attendance

Week ending 8.9.17 (Overall 98.21%)

1 st =	Y5	100%
1 st =	Y4	100%
3 rd	Y3	99%
4 th	Y6	98.96%
5 th	Rec	98.75%
6 th	Y2	95.54%
7 th	Y1	95%

Week ending 15.09.17(Overall:98.01 %)

1st	Y2	100.00%
2nd	Y3	99.60%
3rd	Y1	99.50%
4th	Y4	99.23%
5th	Y6	99.20%
6th	Y5	98.64%
7 th	Rec	93.00%

Week ending 22.09.2017(Overall:95.65%)

1 st	Y6	100%
2 nd	Y3	99.60%
3rd	Y2	95.71%
4th	Y5	95.45%
5th	Y4	93.08%
6th	Rec	86.11%
7th	Y1	92.50%

Year to date: 97.16% (Target: 96%)

There was an increase in the number of children having term time holidays in September and these are always discussed with the Educational Welfare Officer. I am attaching the latest letter to parents regarding absence from Staffordshire County Council and further details can be found on www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education. Can I particularly draw your attention to late marks as now 10 late marks can trigger a penalty notice.

School is closed for 13 weeks each year, so please try to keep holidays to those dates. Thank you.



Harvest

On Friday 6th October Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be leading our Harvest Celebration and we warmly invite all parents and carers to join us at 9.15am.

Once again we will be collecting items for the Cannock and District Foodbank. Over the last year they have been able to provide meals for 2124 adults and 1115 children as well as supporting local soup kitchens, Pop in Hednesford and Mill Street Cannock. The demands on the foodbank are as strong as ever and I know some of our own families have benefitted from their support. Please can you help us by donating an item or two from this shopping list which will benefit local families at their time of need. Thank you.

Pasta Sauce
Tinned Meat
Tinned Fruit
Pasta/Rice
UHT Milk
Tinned Fish
Rice Pudding
Biscuits/Snacks
Tinned Soup
Tinned Tomatoes.

School Meals

The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have very quickly settled into having a free school meal each day. It has been lovely to watch them trying new foods and choosing for themselves (sometimes with a little help!). Thank you so much to all of you for your support. I know it was a new change, but it is proving to be very successful with every child smiling as they collect their dinner. Snacks can continue to be sent for morning play eg breakfast bars, small sandwich, cheese dippers, raisins etc. The children are not allowed chocolate, biscuits, nuts or crisps as we wish to encourage healthy eating. Fruit is always available for infant children at all times.

Parents Evening.

This will be held on Tuesday 17th October from 4-7pm and your booking letter is attached. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to meet your child's new teacher, discuss how they have settled in to their new class and share targets for the future. I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend and we look forward to welcoming you in to school.

Homework

Many parents ask about the homework we set, so I hope that this will help!

Children in Key Stage 2 work in groups on Mondays for the teaching of Reading and Spelling. They are given spellings to learn each week for a test on Friday. Please make sure your child does this as that is the only way they are going to make good progress. They should also be reading with you at least three times a week so as to become more fluent. In addition to this, their classteacher may set other work related to the learning in class. We would encourage you to support them in this learning and advise the teacher if there are any problems.

In Years 1 and 2 the children are also given spellings to learn and will be tested weekly. Reading books are sent home which are to be shared with your child. Again reading with your child at least three times a week will foster a love of reading and accelerate progress. Miss Walmsley - Lycett and Mr Dunn will also set other tasks to be completed at home which may vary from research to bringing things in to support a topic. In Reception, Mrs Paddock sends home the Learning Journey books for parents to share experiences and work on school based tasks. These are proving to be a very successful means of communication for our youngest pupils.

We also have our exciting Family Homework Projects and love to see the results! Your child should have their planner in school every day and this can be used as a communication tool between home and school. Thank you for all your continued support - it really does make a difference.

Jeans for Genes

Thank you so much for your support on this special day. The children wear jeans with their uniform to demonstrate that it only takes one gene to change someone's life and abilities. Everyone enjoyed taking part in the range of activities and we raised £155 for this very worthy Cause.

Home School Association

Our Home School Association is a group of very committed parents who raise money over the year to support the extras that the school budget doesn't cover. Last year they gave us over £2000, with a cheque for £1700 being given to subsidise the summer visits. All parents are automatically members of the Home School Association and I know they would love some more help. If you are interested in becoming part of this vital group, please leave your name and number at the office so we can ask them to contact you.

THEY NEED YOU!!

School Uniform

The children are all looking fantastic in their uniforms and showing pride in their school. However, during the school day your child will take part in a range of activities including painting, cooking and experimenting with materials. Whilst we do everything we can to try and keep their clothing covered, unfortunately they do sometimes stain their clothes and for this we apologise. I appreciate that this is annoying and certainly do not expect you to replace stained items and neither can school replace them. No child will ever be in trouble for wearing a stained top and I'm sure you'll agree that exploration and adventure is a wonderful way of learning.

Thank you.

