**Headteacher Update**

**Friday 15thth September 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a great week in school. It was really lovely to hear so many positive comments from all of the teachers in our celebration assembly this morning; the children have all stepped up to the challenge in their new year groups and we are incredibly proud of them. Look out for Facebook posts to see what the children have been up to and to see our stars of the week.

**Bikes and Scooters**

It is wonderful to see so many children cycling and scootering their way to school each day. Please make sure children are wearing helmets to keep them safe.

**Parking at drop off and pick up times**

As you know, due to works at both our school and the County High School, parking is limited around school at the moment. The layby is being used by contractors and staff from both schools. We have noticed that some parents are parking across the zigzag lines and also on the small section of grass near the pathway by the side gate. Please refrain from parking in these areas. The zigzag lines are there to create a safe zone for children to leave school and cross the road. Additionally, the grass area is not a safe place to park as there are too many young children walking either side of it. We thank you all for supporting us to keep everyone safe.

**PANTS**

Next week children across the school will be talking about PANTS. PANTS is an age-appropriate resource, produced by the NSPCC, to allow parents and teachers to educate children about how to keep themselves safe, and specifically to teach them that our bodies are private. PANTS stands for:

*Privates are private*

*Always your body belongs to you*

*No means no*

*Talk about secrets that upset you (there are good secrets and bad secrets)*

*Speak up, there is always someone to help you*

This is an important part of our Personal Development and PSHE curriculum. If you would like to know more, please visit the NSPCC website where all resources can be viewed: [Let's talk PANTS | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/)

**Explorers**

I know many of you enjoyed the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory event at Emmanuel Church earlier in the week. Pastor Dave has asked us to remind you that Explorers club starts on Monday evening and will now be based at their wonderful new building. All children will be welcome.

**Attendance and Punctuality**

We continue to reach for our aspirational target of 97% attendance for the whole school. We work with the schools within Weaver Trust, as well as Headteachers in our Northwich Education Partnership, to improve attendance at school for all children.

The chart below, which has been produced by local academy trust, is a stark reminder of how regular absence from school can impact on a child’s education.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Attendance % over a school year | Equal to number of days absent | Converted to approximate weeks of absence |  Weeks of learning lost over 7 years of primary school |  |
| 95% | 9.5 | 2 weeks | 14 weeks |  |
| 90% | 19 | 4 weeks | 28 weeks |  |
| 80% | 38 | 8 weeks | 1 year and 1 month |  |
| 70% | 57 | 12 weeks | 1 year and 8 months |  |

Please continue to work with us to ensure children are in school as much as possible. We are coming into cough and cold season and children will seem to pick up every bug going. Whilst we would never wish for children to be sent to school if they are poorly or have a temperature, it is important not to keep them off for little colds and coughs. If you are unsure as to whether your child is well enough to come to school or not, please just ask us at the office or chat to us at the gate. It is often better to ‘see how they go’, rather than to keep them off ‘just in case’.

We have had a positive start to the year for most classes. Let’s try to keep those percentages up!

We will continue to give you a weekly update for class attendance and whole school attendance. Today we celebrated Year 2 who have had 100% attendance this week – well done! They spun the wheel of fortune and won an extra play time today.

Attendance for the week:

Reception: 97%

Year 1: 99%

Year 2: 100%

Year 3: 99%

Year 4: 97%

Year 5: 91%

Year 6: 94%

**New Website**

In the coming weeks we will be launching our new and improved website. School Spider will no longer be used. The website address will not change and you will still be able to access the same information about school. However, parent/ carer emails will be sent through Arbor. We will keep you all informed of changes as they happen.

**Dates for your Diaries**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Date** | **Time** | **Classes involved** |
| SEN Parents’ meetings | Monday 9th October 2023 | TBA | SEN children |
| Parents’ Evening | Tuesday 10th October 2023 | 3.30pm – 6.30pm | All year groups |
| SEN Parents’ meetings | Wednesday 11th October 2023 | TBA | SEN children |
| Parents’ Evening | Thursday 12th October 2023 | 3.30pm – 6.30pm | All year groups |
| Photographs - individual | Monday 16th October 2023 | 8am – all morning | All year groups and pre-school siblings |
| Break up for half term | Friday 27th October 2023 | 3.15pm | All year groups |
| Community Fireworks Night | Monday 6th November 2023 | 5pm | School families/ local community |
| Open Afternoon for parents | Tuesday 7th November 2023 | 3.15pm | All year groups |

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Kind regards,

Mrs C Harrison and Mrs L Guy