**Headteacher Update**

**Friday 22nd September 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another great week in school. We are now well and truly settled into our new classes and our learning now!

**‘The more that you read, the more things you will know…’ Dr Seuss**

One of our favourite quotes, and so true! From the minute children start school in reception, they are surrounded by a print rich environment, and books to help develop their skills and ignite a love of reading. Children in all years take part in a range of reading activities during the week, including phonics sessions, shared reading and guided reading and our curriculum is built around quality texts to inspire them.

We can never underestimate the difference it makes to children when they read regularly at home. We ask children to share their books with you at least three times a week, but we encourage them to read more often than that if they can. Our ‘Read for the Stars’ challenge ensures children are rewarded for their efforts; children receive a sweet every time they have completed 5 reads at home and they get a prize when they reach 25 reads.

Please ensure your child is not left behind by supporting them at home for just a few minutes each day, and by ensuring their diaries are signed and their books and book bags are in school every day.

**Reading Volunteers – can you help?**

We have two wonderful ladies who come into school for a short time each week to hear children read. This makes a huge difference to those children who need a little more practice. We would welcome more volunteers, so if you would like to help and you are able to spare an hour for one afternoon each week then please get in touch.

**Forest Schools**

Miss Danielles took her first group out on Wednesday afternoon to enjoy a forest school session. The rain stopped just in time for the children to head into the woodland area for an afternoon of teambuilding and bushcraft. They all returned rosy cheeked and very muddy as always!

Every child will have the opportunity to take part in Forest Schools at least once during the academic year, so please look out for a letter to let you know when it is your child’s turn. It is incredibly muddy in the woodland area so it is important children come dressed appropriately in old, warm clothes and that they have a change of shoes. If children do not have wellies, then old trainers will do.

**Parent Pay**

Hopefully by now all issues relating to parent pay have been sorted out. Please ensure school visits, lunches and snacks are paid for in advance as we do not allow debt. Children will not be permitted to have a school lunch if money is owed, or a snack if it has not been ordered and paid for in advance.

**Harvest Celebration**

We are thrilled that we are able to celebrate a traditional harvest festival with the children at Emmanuel church this year. The whole school will be walking to church on Wednesday 4th October to give thanks together. As part of our celebration, we would like to offer contributions to the food bank at Emmanuel, so we are asking each child to donate one non-perishable item that they can carry to church on the day. The food bank welcomes canned food (beans, fruit, sauces) and dried goods (such as pasta and rice). Thank you for your support.

**Attendance**

Today we celebrated Year … who have had …% attendance this week – well done! They spun the wheel of fortune and won … .

Attendance for the week:

Reception: %

Year 1: %

Year 2: %

Year 3: %

Year 4: %

Year 5: %

Year 6: %

**Dates for your Diaries**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Date** | **Time** | **Classes involved** |
| Harvest Festival - donations for the food bank | Wednesday 4th October | 9.30am | All year groups |
| 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