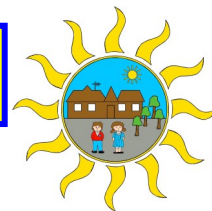


Stedham Primary Newsletter 1

9 September 2016



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year. I have already spoken to most of you over the first week 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. Please can I remind you that **all items** including PE kits, coats and especially sweatshirts need to be named.

PE Kits

Yesterday we had our first Aspire PE session and a number of children did not have their kits in school. Please ensure that full PE kit is kept in school **at all times**.

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. Although we do have this in school, it is for first aid and so 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 21 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 27 February 2017 (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 Afternoon

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 30 September, 2.30-4pm. 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 the academic progress of those children. 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 are entitled.

Lunchtime Kitchen Assistant Vacancy

Congratulations to Mrs Coombes who has been promoted but that sadly leaves us with the need to find a replacement to prepare and serve our school dinners. This vacancy is not a direct appointment by the school but through Chartwells, who provide our school meals.

The role is for approximately 12.5 hours per week, paid monthly across the full year on a pro rata basis (although you don't work school holidays). The successful candidate would be preparing the food for the children, serving at 12pm and then clearing away.

If this is a role you would be interested in, you can ask for more details or an application form by contacting either Emma Lee on 07825 992998 or Kim Pepper on 07880 052878. Full training would be given by Mrs Coombes!

Parking

I am sorry to nag so early in the term but I have already had complaints from our neighbours about dangerous and inconsiderate parking.

Please do not park or drive onto grass verges outside people's houses. They are not public land and the grass is being 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 now nearing 20. 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 23 September—Jeans for Genes Day—wear jeans to school in exchange for £1 (still school uniform on the top half!)

Friday 30 September—Macmillan Coffee Afternoon
3-14 October—Monetary Donations for Harvest which will be used to support our link school in Kenya.

Water Bottles

In the past we have provided water bottles but for several reasons we have decided to stop this and ask parents to send their child into school with their own (named) water bottle instead, which will be sent home every Friday for washing. In the meantime their old bottles or cups are available for drinking but if you could action this as soon as possible it would be appreciated.



New Security Gate

You'll have noticed that the pedestrian gate has had some work done to it. It is in the process of being changed so that soon you'll need to be buzzed in outside the times of 8.40-9am and 3.20-3.40pm. We are just waiting for a part to arrive and hope the work will be completed soon. We will let you know when it is in place!

Have a good weekend.

Regards

Sally Dreckman

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 21 September—Year 6 Experience Day at MRC

Friday 30 September—Macmillan Coffee Afternoon 2.30-4pm—all welcome!

Tuesday 4 October—Harvest Festival service at Stedham Church at 2pm—letter to follow nearer the date

Friday 23 September—Jeans for Genes Day

Wednesday 28—Friday 30 September—Year 5/6 Residential

Friday 30 September—Macmillan Coffee Afternoon 2.30-4pm

Wednesday 12 October—Welcome Wednesday 3pm (school nurse attending to chat to anyone that wishes to)

Wednesday 19 October—Open Day for prospective new parents 9.30-11.30am and 1.30-6pm

Thursday 20 October—Break up for half term (as Friday 21 October is INSET)