

# Stedham Primary Newsletter 1

**16 September 2019**



**Dear Parents,**

A really warm welcome back to the autumn term at Stedham Primary School. It has been so lovely to see all the children bouncing back into school and looking super smart in their uniforms. We have enjoyed hearing about all your summer adventures. It is lovely to welcome our new Reception class to the school and all their families too. We hope very much that you will be incredibly happy members of our learning community and look forward to seeing you becoming involved in school life in the coming months.

## **My very own warm welcome**

Many thanks for such a warm welcome into the fold at Stedham Primary. The entire community has been very kind and supportive and I am trying my upmost to meet and greet every parent, child and friend of the school. Learning the names of all the children may take some time but, with their friendly and confident nature, I feel that it won't be long before I know each of them well. I feel incredibly privileged to lead such a beautiful and friendly primary school. The staff reflected, during our first INSET day, how wonderful our profession is. We are in a unique position where we can help shape and develop the lives of each pupil in this school. That is a fact that we do not take lightly and we each shared how important it is to create an exciting and challenging curriculum that engages all the children every day.

## **An exciting year ahead with new challenges**

As you are aware, we have different challenges ahead of us this year but our continued focus will be to create golden learning opportunities that help Stedham grow and develop. We are keen that Stedham Primary is at the centre of our community for many more years to come.

We are passionate about inspiring our young people with a genuine love of and thirst for learning by equipping them with the skills they need to become lifelong learners. The curriculum at Stedham has been designed and written by our staff to nurture our children to become - positive, courageous, determined, collaborative learners. Our ultimate goal is to help our children to recognise their own, unique talents and to nurture them to fulfil their potential.

## **Retiling the roof of the school hall**

The hall roof is currently being retiled and, I am happy to say, we have just heard that the scaffolding, surrounding the hall, should be down in the next couple of weeks. The roof work will continue at the back of the school but we will now have full use of the school hall again.

We have strict safety measures in place with regards to the site management and although the children will be very interested in what is happening they will be kept safe at all times. Many thanks for

your understanding and patience during this period. As you undoubtedly have heard, we have our very own resident bats residing in the school hall roof. The children have loved learning about these rare bats and I am regularly asked for more news of them.



## **Sharing our vision for Stedham Primary and meeting new parents over tea and cake**

It was really pleasing to see so many parents come along to the two meetings on Friday 6th September where we got to share the vision for our school. It reminded the staff how much you value and take an interest in the education given to your children.

Meeting new parents over a 'cuppa and cake' at Rotherhill Nurseries was a delight. It was lovely to have the chance to welcome you and your children to our school. It also provided a perfect opportunity to answer any questions or queries.

## **Uniform**

Thank you for returning your children to school looking so smart in the correct uniform. 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 / jumpers / cardigans need to be named.

## 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 which is fantastic - long may it continue once the weather worsens as we'll still be there every day!

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 few 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.

## Our New Library

The children are delighted with their new library. We are incredibly fortunate to have a beautiful, well-stocked library with some super books. Huge thanks to the FOSS and other parents who helped fund and decorate it. We have been discussing lots of interesting plans to promote reading and get the most from our library. You will be updated with all of our future plans.



## Staffing: Hellos and Goodbyes

We sadly have said goodbye to Rachel Edmonds who was employed as our cook and premises officer. She has moved away from the area and we wish her all the best for her future.

We warmly welcome Richard Parr into the Stedham team. He will be a very welcome addition as our new Premises Manager. We are also really pleased to have Hannah Dinnis-Searle back from her maternity leave.

## Forest School

Elaine Parkin, our Forest School leader, will be leading sessions throughout the year with Rabbits, Owls and Badgers, supported by Mrs Pay. Mr Noble will still deliver sessions to his own class. The first group from Foxes class will start in September.



## 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 20 September.

## INSET Days

We have taken two (of five) INSET days already at the beginning of this term. We had a valuable opportunity to learn about two new schemes of work: Real PE and Trick Box.

Real PE is a scheme of work that focuses on skills. It is designed to be all inclusive and it allows every individual to make progress whether they are particularly athletic or not. The training that the staff have had was really enjoyable and we are very excited to deliver this to the school.



Trick Box is a whole child, whole school, whole family, emotional management and personal development programme for Primary children, their parents and school staff teams. Its simplistic approach will help all of our children improve their understanding of themselves as learners. It will also help them develop their growth mindset and give them a confidence to try new things without a fear of failure.



Our next INSET day is on **Friday 25th October**. The academic year will finish on 17th July as we have planned a further INSET day on **Monday 20th July**. The remaining INSET day will be set shortly and we will give you plenty of notice so that you can plan childcare and holidays.

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

Friday 27 September—Macmillan Coffee Afternoon.  
October— We intend to collect food for Harvest which will be given to the Midhurst foodbank.

I hope that I haven't overloaded you with information already! We have also agreed key dates for the academic year (with the caveat that they are subject to change with notice). These will be on the school website soon but the upcoming dates are set out below.

We are really looking forward to a happy, exciting year ahead at Stedham Primary. Please do get involved in our school community and remember that we welcome your feedback.

Thanks you for supporting our school!

Kindest regards,  
Malcolm Meaby

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Friday 20 September**— FOSS Annual General Meeting 3:30pm

**Friday 20 September**—Jeans for Genes Day

**Wednesday 25 September**—Year 6 Experience Day at MRC

**Friday 27 September**—Macmillan Coffee Afternoon 2.30-3.30pm—all welcome!

**Friday 27 September**—FOSS film night

**Saturday 12 October**—School Grounds Working Party from 9.30am

**Wednesday 16 October**— Welcome Wednesday 1 8:45—9:15

**Saturday 19 October**— Open Morning 10:00—12:00

**Tuesday 22 October**—Harvest Festival service at Stedham Church at 2pm TBC—letter to follow nearer the date

**Wednesday 23 October**—Quiz night with Thai buffet (date TBC)

**Friday 25 October**—INSET Day

**Thursday 31 October**—Halloween Party 3pm—5pm

**Monday 4 November**—Autumn 2 term starts for the children



## **Stedham Primary School Grounds Working Party**

Please come and support our school community—we are organising a working party to clear and tidy the school grounds on **Saturday 12th October from 9.00–12:00**

We will be weeding, trimming and tidying to make our school grounds look amazing.

FOSS have kindly offered to provide refreshments. A crèche will be set up to keep your children entertained.

Please bring your own gardening tools if you can—we only have a few items in school.

