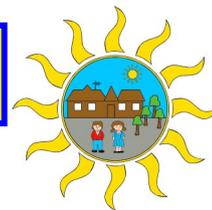


# Stedham Primary Newsletter 1

5 September 2018



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year. 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. 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.

## PE Kits

A few children do not yet have their kits in school. Please ensure that full PE kit is kept in school **at all times**. Again, a reminder that we expect children to be in the correct PE kit as per our uniform policy.

## Earrings

I've noticed a couple of children have had their ears pierced over the summer. 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; 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 you are not 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) **it is the school's policy to refer to the Local Authority** who may serve you with a fixed penalty notice; this is currently £120 per parent per child (reduced to £60 per parent per child if paid in the first 21 days).

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 submit a leave of absence form. If your child needs to attend a medical appointment during the school day, a leave of absence form should also be completed.

As a reminder, our Attendance and Absence Policy is available on our website or a paper copy can be requested from the school office.

## INSET Days

We have taken our one (of five) INSET days already at the beginning of this term. Our next two INSET days are **Friday 19 and Monday 29 October**. The final two INSET days for the academic year will be **Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 July 2019**. I hope this advance warning may help you plan childcare and holidays.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

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 28 September, 2.30-3.30pm. 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!**

WORLD'S BIGGEST  
COFFEE  
MORNING

MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT

## 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 their academic progress. 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 think you are entitled.

## 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.

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

Friday 28 September—Macmillan Coffee Afternoon.

1-18 October—Monetary Donations for Harvest which will be used to support our link school in Kenya.

## Staffing

Only a few days in and already I have staffing news. Firstly, Mrs Dinnis-Searle is expecting a baby in December so congratulations to her. I will shortly begin the process to recruit a maternity cover teacher.

Over the holidays, Mr Stringer unexpectedly tendered his resignation; he has decided to move back into a retail job, closer to home. We are temporarily covering this role while we advertise, with the hope of appointing by October half term.

## Welcome Wednesday

Due to various reasons, this year we have changed Welcome Wednesday to be at the beginning of the school day, from 8.45—9.15am. At Welcome

Wednesday you will be able to look at all your children's books and work. The books will no longer be out to look at during parents evenings in November and March as we now use the hall for two of the teachers to meet parents, so we are all in one building.

## 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 21 September.

## Forest School

We have appointed a new Forest School leader, Elaine Parkin, who will be leading sessions through the year with Rabbits, Owls and Badgers, supported by Mrs Pay. Mr Noble will still deliver sessions to his own class. Those in the first group will shortly receive a letter.

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.

With regards

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturday 15 September**—school grounds working party from 9.30am

**Friday 21 September**—Jeans for Genes Day

**Monday 24 September**—Sussex Music assembly for children to promote piano/keyboard and singing lessons—available after school to see parents.

**Monday 24 September**—FOSS AGM 3.45pm

**Wednesday 26 September**—Year 6 Experience Day at MRC—letter to follow

**Friday 28 September**—Macmillan Coffee Afternoon 2.30-3.30pm—all welcome!

**Tuesday 2 October**—Open Morning for prospective parents 9.30-11.30am

**Wednesday 3—Friday 5 October**—Foxes' Residential at Cobnor

**Tuesday 9 October**—Open Afternoon for prospective parents 1.30-6pm

**Friday 12 October**—FOSS film night (tbc)

**Tuesday 16 October**—Harvest Festival service at Stedham Church at 2pm—letter to follow nearer the date

**Wednesday 17 October**—Welcome Wednesday 8.45-9.15am—note new time!

**Friday 19 October**—INSET Day

**Monday 29 October**—INSET Day

**Tuesday 30 October**—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 15th September from 9.30am.**

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

FOSS will provide refreshments but please bring your own lunch if staying all day. Children are welcome but would be under parent / carer supervision.

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

