



Newsletter

W/b 15th September

Please look out for our Newsletter which will be distributed fortnightly.



Dates for your Diary

Every Tuesday: Celebration Assembly—All welcome

Tuesday 30th September 2014 at 6:00pm: EYFS and KS1 Parents' Information Session:
Reading

Thursday 16th October 2014 at 9:30am: Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church

Monday 13th October 2014: Photographer

Monday 20th October 2014 5:30—7:00pm: Parents' Consultation Evening

Thursday 23rd October 2014 3:30—5:00pm: Parents' Consultation Evening

Friday 24th October 2014 3:15pm: Break up for Half term

Monday 3rd November 2014: Training Day

Tuesday 4th November 2014: Training Day

Wednesday 5th November 2014: School reopens for Autumn term 2



Well Done! A huge well done must go to Class 1. Once again this year, Mrs Allen, Mrs Gentry and I are amazed by how well each child has settled into school life so quickly. As you can see from above, they are already working very hard and having fun! This week, the children even went into Celebration Assembly, for their first assembly ever! Not only did they sit beautifully, but they also confidently shared their work; no mean feat for a 4 year old in front of a school hall full of parents and older children. Class 4 must also be commended for carrying out their 'Big Friend' duties in such a responsible and conscientious way at playtimes. They are already proving to be great role models for the younger children in the school.

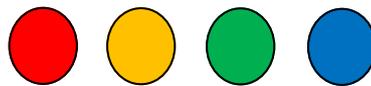
It is a pleasure to walk around school to see all children settling into their new classes; becoming used to their new teachers, new ways of working and new expectations. Well done to all!

House Points!

House points are central to our Behaviour Policy at the school, and indeed the children love receiving them in recognition for their achievements. As you are aware, we have reallocated children Houses, with the aim of making the whole school system fairer; some houses had become unbalanced with more older than younger children, more boys than girls and, indeed, more children in total than others. I must apologise if this 're-jigging' has unsettled some children; it has been done with the best of intentions.

For this year only, the children will receive their new House badge when they have achieved 10 house points. Then, as last year, the children will continue to work towards achieving their 25 (Bronze), 50 (Silver), 75 (Gold) and 100 (Platinum) house points throughout the year.....and work towards winning the overall House Cup and a House end of year treat!

The children will be choosing their House Captains next week and we will inform you of the eagerly awaited result in the next newsletter.



Curriculum Developments:

P.E. and Sport

From the beginning of this term, Mr Kendall, a specialist PE teacher (and rugby player), is joining us for 2 afternoons per week to work alongside the teachers, delivering our P.E. curriculum to Class 2, 3 and 4. We are extremely fortunate to have been able to access his expertise and I'm sure his input over the coming months will prove invaluable. We have tried to co-ordinate each term's P.E. focus in lesson times with any planned inter school competitions run by Northamptonshire Sport. Hence, the children will have had sport specific skills taught preceding the competitions. Last year, the school bought a huge amount of indoor PE equipment which will be put to good use in the coming months when the weather turns colder.

In addition, Mr Kendall is also running 2 sporting after school clubs, one for Class 2 and a second for Class 3 and 4. If you would like your child to attend, please ask at the office for details. Again, the focus for the Key Stage 2 club will tie in with future competitions, where possible. Please support Mr Kendall's clubs, if you feel able. Our other, well known external providers are continuing their sporting provision this year i.e. judo, street dance and football.

In addition to the above, this year, our new teachers are also having 3 days training in a

scheme called REAL P.E. Mrs Allen and Mrs Gentry are completing their training this September.

Mrs Bell is continuing to run Sports / Play activities for 3 lunchtimes per week. After last term's highly successful House football tournament, I am sure other sporting tournaments will be organised in the future interspersed with fun activities e.g. parachute games and team games.

We will continue to recognise outside school sporting achievements in Celebration Assembly this year, so please continue to send in news of your child's successes each Tuesday. It is sometimes a real 'eye opener' to see the extent to which our children are excelling in sports (and other areas!) in their spare time; it is a credit to you as parents for investing so much time in a huge range of extra curricular activities.

I hope you agree that the above shows the school's commitment to increasing the provision of quality P.E. and sporting activities across the school.



Curriculum Developments continued: Our Whole School Topic

We have now commenced our whole school topic 'Staverton, Centre of the Universe!' . Each class has taken a particular focus and Classes 2, 3 and 4 have a key learning challenge, phrased as a question, to be addressed by the end of this term:

Class 1: All About Me!

Class 2: What would Dora the Explorer find exciting about Staverton / Daventry?

Class 3: Where would you choose to live: Staverton or Northampton?

Class 4: I'm a Class 4 celebrity, can you get me out of here?

The topic started with a Class 2, 3 and 4 treasure hunt around the village, with the results shared in Celebration Assembly. Amber triumphed, reportedly due to their teamwork, earning 20 house points.

The village of Staverton has suddenly been erected in our Challenge Area and Class 2 have been excitedly receiving post cards sent to Staverton from Dora the Explorer! Class 3 will try to persuade the Council that it's not such a good idea to allow a skyscraper (similar to the Dubai's Burj Khalifa) to be built on the village green! In addition, Class 4 will shortly be visiting Northampton, where they may even become stranded and have to use their newly learnt map skills to find their way to specific locations.



Curriculum Developments continued: New Handwriting Scheme

You should have received a sheet last week outlining our new Handwriting Scheme which we have introduced to improve the style, legibility and fluency of the children's writing. As we are quickly reaching our second full week in school, teachers in Classes 3 and 4 will be soon reallocating pens to those children who have previously received their 'Pen Licence'. Please encourage your child to practise the new style (using 'lead in strokes' and starting each letter from the line). If you would like more information on this, please feel free to ask your child's class teacher.



Curriculum Developments continued: New approach to Reading

The school has recently purchased a new phonics based Reading programme, called Read Write Inc., which is currently being implemented in Class 1 and 2. This approach will be explained in detail at the **Class 1 and 2 Parents' Information Session on Tuesday 30th September 2014 at 6:00pm**. (If your child has come home using 'frog talk' - all will be revealed!) New Read, Write Inc. books will be used in school and children will continue to bring home the colour coded, individual home-school reading books (which include the Oxford Reading Tree books) as previously. Please join us for the information evening, if you can!

School Website

We are experiencing some 'technical hitches' with our school website and therefore some of the information is out of date. Please bear with us, whilst we try to resolve the issue. Many thanks.

Data Collection Sheets

Mrs Scott will soon be sending out the annual Data Collection sheets so that you can update your child's contact details for the forthcoming year. Please return as soon as possible so that we can update our records.

Homework

As outlined in the curriculum letters recently circulated, your child should be completing homework on a regular basis. Presently homework consists of reading for 10 minutes a night, learning weekly spellings and completing Rapid Maths tasks (including times tables). Most children have also been allocated some Bug Club E-books (as explained in a previous letter) and from Monday, Maths 'Abacus Online' activities will also be allocated for your child to consolidate their Maths learning, through fun interactive tasks.



'Learning Log' (topic) homework will also be commencing on Monday 22nd September. As last year, the children will be given a list of suggested activities linked to their class topic that they can choose from, and complete, over a period of time. The activities should be fun and by adding in an element of choice, the children can work to their strengths and hence, enjoy some of the tasks set. We would once again love to create displays in the foyer and share Learning Log achievements in Celebration Assembly, so you can see the wonderful work that, I am sure, will be produced at home. This type of homework will also begin to prepare the older children for secondary school as they will have to organise their time in order to complete a number of tasks before a deadline set quite a way in the future.

As I have stated previously, homework is often a 'thorny issue'; it is always difficult to get the balance right (after a long school day we all recognise the importance of 'down time') so we would again welcome your views regarding the amount of homework set, as the term progresses.

Stars of the Week

The Stars of the Week for w/b 8th September were:

Class 1	Ashleigh
Class 2	Poppy-Mae; Noah
Class 3	Sophie; William H
Class 4	Hannah; Jessica M

Admission for Reception Class 2015

If you have a child, or know someone with a child, who turns 4 before 31st August 2015, it's time to apply for a primary school place. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2014 at 5pm. All details can be found on: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/admissions. Please encourage anyone you know, who will be looking for a school place for the next academic year to ring to arrange a tour of the school.

Admission for Secondary Schools 2015

The closing date for applying for secondary school places in Northamptonshire and Warwickshire is 31st October 2014 at 5pm.

Outside School

Achievements



Well done to Heather in Class 2 for achieving her 20m and her Stage 4 swimming awards in the holidays. Congratulations, also to Harry in Class 3 for achieving his Stage 3 award and progressing to swimming in the deep end!

Hot Lunches

Please could we ask that if your child is having school hot lunches, that you discuss the choices from the menu with your child, before ordering. A few children are becoming very upset at lunchtime when they do not like the food that has been ordered for them; obviously we would all like to avoid this situation arising. Many thanks.



Academy Conversion

I am pleased to confirm that the school converted to academy status with Peterborough Diocese Education Trust on 1st August 2014.