



Scantabout Primary School

Achieving our best together.

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ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018

NEWSLETTER NO: 1 w/c 18th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see the children on the first day of term. They settled in really well and were busy with their learning within a few minutes of walking in. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Nicola Lane to our teaching staff. She will be working in Year Three. I would also like to welcome Miss Hilary Blaker, our new Administration Officer. If you see them around, please do say hello. They are very much looking forward to getting to know the Scantabout Community.

I would also like to welcome our new children to the school as well as the Reception children who started this week. I would also like to welcome our new families to the school. I know that Mrs Smith, Mrs Harnett and Mrs Brown, along with the rest of the school staff very much look forward to getting to know you all over the coming years.

What's New in the Classes?

Over the summer, the caretaking staff have been busy decorating some of the classes. So far we have had Year R, 3, 4, 5 and 6 repainted as well as the hall. They are looking much fresher. Next up are Years 1, 2 and the communal areas. In Year 6 we have completely refurbished the classroom to with new carpets and furniture; there is also a study area for the children in this class.

Changes to our English Curriculum

Last summer, I worked with the leadership team and Hampshire's English Inspector to revise the long term plan for English. We focused on ensuring that every unit of work in Years 1-6 is based on a rich, quality text. This will be used as a class reader and also be used to teach grammar skills in context, as well as providing a springboard for the children's writing.

Last term, we trialled a new system of teaching reading for Key Stage One and Two. This has had a really positive impact both on the children's progress in reading and also on their enjoyment of books. In a nutshell, we have moved from a weekly reading lesson, to daily reading lessons so that every child reads every day. In Years 1-6, the children also have a reading journal so that they can develop their responses to reading and record their thoughts. These will be available at Parents' Evening for you to see.

Parents Evenings and Show and Share

Parents Evenings this term as Tuesday 31st October and Thursday 2nd November at 4pm to 7pm. More information via Parent Mail nearer the time.

In response to feedback from **parent questionnaires**, we will also be holding additional 'show and share' sessions where parents can come in and informally look at books, talk with the class teacher so that they get a feel for their child's progress in between Parents' Evenings. We will be offering one per term, with a 3.30 to 4pm drop in slot and a 5-5.30pm slot for parents who have children at Rebecca's. At 4-5pm the teachers will attend their usual Wednesday staff meeting, then be back in the classroom ready to meet parents at 5pm.

Our first **Show and Share** will be on Wednesday the 11th October for children in Years 1-6. Year R children's Show and Shares will begin in the Spring Term.

In the meantime if you have any worries or concerns, or just want to touch base with your class teacher, then please do make a separate appointment with them.



Reminders about Start of Day Routines

Just to remind you that the classes are open from 8.40 am. Please can you make sure that your child remains with you or outside in the playground until 8.40 am. Please can I remind parents that children are parents' responsibility until school begins at 8.40. So that staff know who is on site, children need to enter via their class door and not through the front door or the side door by Rebecca's. Many thanks for your support with this.

Election Day Closure/INSET Day

Eastleigh council have written to us to inform us that we will be used as a polling station on Thursday 3rd May 2018. As I promised last term, we will be using this day as an INSET day so the children will not be in school.

Online Payments

One of the things that several parents have asked me about is Online Payments. I am currently looking into this with the governors and will let you know once we have made progress on this.

Wanted Parent Helpers

We are currently looking for parent helpers to help in the afternoon, particularly in Year 3-6 with maths games and reading. If you are interested, then please contact me for more details.

Home Learning

Following discussion with teachers and feedback from parents, in order to ensure that home learning is smoothly administered and to give teachers time to mark home learning, home learning will be come in as usual on a Wednesday but will go out on a Thursday.

French Club

We are fortunate enough to have a wonderful French club run by an external provider during a Monday lunchtime. The children in Key Stage 2 all learn French as part of their core curriculum, however this is a great opportunity for the children to immerse themselves in conversational French. If you are interested please contact 'Le Club Francais' via e-mail address sandrineleoni@btinternet.com

From the Office

Just a new term reminder that dinner monies can be paid in advance via the school office (pending online payment system) at a cost of £2.15 per day. This is applicable for children within Year 3 and above as children within Years R, 1 and 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. Cheques may be made payable to Hampshire County Council or H.C.C. If you have any queries please speak to the Office Team who are happy to help.

Have an enjoyable term,
With kind regards,
Tina Thomas
Head Teacher

D A T E S F O R Y O U R D I A R Y - 2 0 1 7 / 1 8

W/C 18 th September	Clubs start (please see clubs letter)
22 nd Sept	Inset Day – our focus for is planning learning journeys in English
28 th September Year 5: 6pm Year 6: 6.45pm	Swanage and Isle of Wight Residential Information Evening for Parents of children in Years 5 and 6
2 nd Oct	Year 3 - Stonehenge School Trip
11 th October	Show and Share for children in Years 1-6 3.30-5pm and 5pm to 5.30pm
11 th October	6pm Year R Reading and Writing Information evening – Mrs Smith will send out information for this
20 th October - 2.30pm	Harvest Festival
23 rd till 27 th October	Half Term
30 th October	Inset Day – our focus is assessment for learning
w/c 30 th October	There will be no clubs this week because of Parents' Evening
Tuesday 31 st October	Parents' Evening
Thursday 2 nd November	Parents' Evening
Thursday 16 th November 6-7pm	Reading information evening for parents of children in Key Stage 1 and 2
Friday 8 th December	SSA Christmas Fayre – details to follow
Thursday 11 th January 6pm	Maths information evening for parents of children in Key Stage 1 and 2 children
6 th and 8 th February	Spring Parents' Evening
30 th October, 19 th January, 3 rd May, 4 th June	INSET Days for the remainder of the year.