

24th October 2014

Dear parents/carers,

As today is the last day of our first half term I thought I would summarise what we have been doing throughout the School and let you know some of our plans for next half term.

Reception are using the topic 'All About Me' and pupils have Read, Write Inc (phonics) lessons every day. The pupils have been having guided reading, guided writing and mathematics focus activities. Whole class teaching takes place with shared reading, shared writing and for mathematics. Independent learning takes place with resources that pupils have been taught how to use properly. Handwriting is used to develop fine motor skills and the pupils visit Shandy Park to develop their gross motor skills.

Years 1, 2 and 3 move into ability groups for their Read Write Inc lessons or their Literacy and Language lesson every morning for an hour. They then have guided reading. Key learning (skills), which is currently handwriting, is taking place daily. Topics for writing have focussed on traditional and other stories and next half term writing will be from a Geography topic – The Local Area.

The mathematics lesson happens every day and mental mathematics is taught during the lesson and separately each week. We have started the Mathematics Mastery lessons and a mathematics consultant, who works across Paradigm Trust Academies, is planning the work for the higher ability pupils in years 2 and 3 and modelling effective teaching strategies.

Year 3 have completed an Art and Design project related to the Battle of Solebay, their work will be displayed in the front entrance.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and computing. The classroom ICT is now installed and working and we have received the equipment for the ICT suite and the pupil notebooks. Paradigm Trust has a strong e-safety curriculum which will be taught to all pupils and our computing (coding) curriculum will be introduced over time.

Music is taught by our music manager and is focussed on singing.

Assemblies will start after half term (as long as the linoleum that needs to be replaced in the hall has been). Janet and Reba will lead on Assembly each week, there will be two singing Assemblies and I shall lead the rewards Assembly. Janet's Assembly will focus on all aspects of pupils keeping themselves safe e.g. near water, on the road/pavement and on the internet. Reba will focus on topical news from around the World.

Attendance is really high! Great news and thank you!

Drop off and collection. A Travel Plan working party is being set up and will meet for the first time on Monday 3rd November. So far, Local Enforcement Officers, The Travel Champion and an officer from Transport and Highways have visited the School and talked about our current arrangements. A small group of parents/carers have met twice with myself and Governors.

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Fruit is available every day and water is available throughout the day.

Governors. The Local Governing Body has met twice, Governors have visited the School on many occasions and we shall let you know on Monday 3rd November if there is to be a contested election for the parents/carers Governor vacancies.

Half term additional teaching sessions. Some year 1 pupils will be coming to School on Monday and Tuesday morning next week to have lessons in phonics, reading and mathematics.

Health and safety (H&S). The Trust's H&S consultant visited yesterday and conducted a thorough review of the entire School. He will follow up with an action plan. We have practised the fire evacuation procedure using all 3 staircases and the pupils know exactly what to do. We have first aiders on site at all times and people have been trained for specific medical conditions.

Holiday work. Packs of work have been written and distributed today so that all pupils can maintain their School based learning.

Lunch. The salad bar, organic bread, 3 choices of hot food, vegetables, pudding, yogurts, cheese and fruit are available every day.

Playtime is either in the Park (our equipment has arrived) or a walk through the Park. The playdeck has not been completed to an acceptable standard and we have made serious complaints to both Wilmott Dixon and the Department for Education. Many of you will understand how difficult it is to get a huge building contractor and a Government Department to move quickly! We are doing everything we can!

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We have had visits from one of the Trusts' SEND managers, the Educational Psychologist and the Occupational Therapist. We are arranging the Speech and Language Therapy assessments and parents/carers have attended meetings where concerns have been raised about a pupil.

Star pupils. Pupils will begin to receive Star Pupil cards through the post as a reward. This will relate to something they have done well, or something they have got better at, or for doing something that was particularly noticed –usually a kind deed. Every pupil will receive at least one during the year!

Staff have received an enormous amount of training and development in order to improve their teaching. In every area of the School the staff have shown an enormous commitment to the pupils and everyone has built strong relationships, both inside and outside the classrooms. We have appreciated the positive commitments and messages that we have received from many of you. It makes a real difference to people working hard to get things right for the children.

Thank you for your contribution to ensuring that our new School has got off to a great start this half term.

We should like to wish you all a restful half term break and look forward to seeing you all at 8.45am on Monday 3rd November. Please note the closure date and the dates for the academic year (separate letter).

Yours faithfully



Amanda Phillips
Executive Principal