



Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you've all had a fantastic summer.

School has been a busy place over the holidays. We now have a brand new kitchen – a long overdue update - which has taken the full six weeks to complete. Work has continued on the extension with the main work to complete now being internal. We can't wait to get up and running in there.

Home Reading – Words, words, words!

This year, we want to make our home reading have a focus on vocabulary. Children having a greater knowledge and understanding of words not only has an impact on their reading comprehension but it also enables them to express themselves more confidently and effectively in a written and spoken format. This year, we would like children to collect words each week from their reading and record them on the bookmark provided. The words should be ones that they have not understood fully in their reading and that they have needed to look up or words that they find interesting. The children need to collect a minimum of 3 words per week and bring their bookmark into school to share with the class. For every bookmark they complete, they will be awarded with a reading Dojo. We would also like children to continue filling in their reading records. Children will need to read for a minimum of 3 times each week and return their reading records with their bookmarks every Monday.

The words that the children collect can come from any reading that they may do – not just books. People need to read constantly in their day-to-day lives so words could come from books, magazines, leaflets, menus, road signs, cereal boxes – anywhere! The words can also come from books that you read to your children. Even the youngest of children are fascinated by words and love to learn and use new ones. We want our children to be curious about words and we would like you to encourage your children to talk about the words with you so they can share the meaning of the words with their friends in class when they bring their vocabulary bookmarks into school. Encourage them to look up the words in a dictionary or online. Can the word have more than one meaning? What words have a similar meaning? Does it have an opposite? Can they find a word that their teacher doesn't know? After all, there are estimated to be over 1 million words in the English language with 170,000 in current use. The average English speaker has a vocabulary of 20,000 – 35,000 words so there's plenty to go at! Words and their meanings are constantly changing and evolving so the wider a person's vocabulary, the better their understanding of the world. Let's help our children together to develop a love of words and reading!



Attendance and Punctuality

Our whole school attendance target is 96.5% this year. If your child is absent for any reason then please contact school as soon as possible to let us know. If we do not hear from you, we will attempt to contact all of your emergency contacts until we know that your child is safe. In order for children to achieve their best, it is vital that they attend school regularly and are on time. Children who arrive late not only miss out on aspects of their learning but quite often find it difficult to settle into their learning as their day has got off to a bad start. Children in KS2 need to be in their line at the 8.40am bell and KS1 need to be in the line at 8.45am. Please refer to our attendance policy on the school website for further information.

Key Dates

Below is a reminder of the key dates for the Autumn term. If any of the dates need to change then we will give you as much notice as we can.

Date	Event
Friday 13 th September	Attendance awards for 2018-19
Friday 27 th September	Author Visit
Friday 18 th October	Harvest Festival KS1 9.15 and KS2 2.15
Friday 25 th October	Break up for Half Term
Monday 4 th November	INSET – School closed to children
Tuesday 5 th November	Children back to school
Wednesday 6 th November	Parent's evening 3.15 – 5.30
Thursday 7 th November	Parent's evening 5.00 – 7.30
Friday 6 th December	Christingle Assembly
Thursday 12 th December	EYFS Christmas Performance 9.15am
Thursday 12 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance 2.00pm
Friday 13 th December	KS2 Christmas Concert 2.15pm
Monday 16 th December	EYFS and KS1 Christmas Party
Tuesday 17 th December	KS2 Christmas Party
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Dinner
Friday 20 th December	Break up for Christmas – In it to win it assembly

Many thanks

Mrs Ainsworth