

Newsletter

September 2016



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Our very first week in our new school is already over and what a busy and exciting week it was! I cannot believe how quickly the children settled and how soon we saw beaming smiles! It has been lovely to hear so many parents and carers commenting on how happy their child has been, how excited about learning and how they look forward to coming to school. I have even seen a number of children crying because they have to go home; always a pleasing sight for school staff! I have to congratulate the school team as it is their hard work and efforts that result in contented children.

Teaching & Learning

We have purposely organised a gradual introduction to teaching and learning. The children have arrived from a number of different settings and need time to get to know each other and their new teaching team. As a school we need to embed the standards, expectations and routines that will ensure the school is a safe and happy one. This takes quite a time with young children and needs lots of repetition and reinforcement. The children are becoming familiar with their new school building and surroundings and enjoyed a treasure hunt to support this familiarisation. Lots of art and design and technology lessons have resulted in work for displays throughout the school (downstairs). Lots of sport sessions have helped to build team spirit and friendship groups. The week was culminated in a visit from the Park's Trust when children went exploring Newton Leys, took part in forest skills and enjoyed toasted marshmallows



over a bonfire resulting in all of us stinking of smoke!

School Uniform

The children look splendid in their school uniforms and so thank you for your efforts in making sure the children attend school looking so smart in the correct uniform. All in all, we have had a very happy week albeit a very busy one!

Official School Opening Event

I have spoken to most parents and a letter has been emailed to all with details about our official opening event next Thursday at 3.15pm. It is going to be a grand affair with the Mayor and Mayoress of Milton Keynes, Director for children and young people of Milton Keynes, local councilors and representatives from Taylor Wimpey and Willmott Dixon attending. There will be fairground games and a bouncy castle for the children followed by a party tea and a cream tea for guests after a tour of the school. Please do come along and enjoy this special afternoon with us. We will need numbers of adults and children attending (including those at school) for catering purposes.



'Meet the Teacher' Evening

Now a gentle reminder for 'Meet the Teacher' evening next Wednesday 14th September at 6pm – 6.30pm. This is an informal meeting when class teachers will explain routines, homework and timetables and the topic and curriculum for the term will be shared. Appointments are not required, just arrive at 6pm and go to your child's classroom where teachers will be there to welcome you.

School Menu Taster Session

On Thursday 22nd September at 3.30pm – 4.00pm we will be holding a 'tasting' session for parents to sample food from the lunch menu. A reply slip will be sent out soon, requesting an indication of numbers attending for catering purposes. As I have discussed before; the importance of a healthy, nutritious hot meal at lunch time cannot be underestimated. As teaching staff we see the positive impact it has on children in the afternoon in terms of their ability to concentrate, energy levels and alertness. Please do remember if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 they are entitled to a free school meal. Forms can be collected from the Reception Office and even if your child does not have a hot lunch every day, by completing the form it does ensure the school receives the funding for the meals. As you are probably well aware, every penny is greatly received in schools.

Holiday Club

As you will be aware we will be providing care for our children throughout the year running a Holiday Club during the school holidays. October half term is creeping nearer and so we will be holding an information evening for parents that may want to use the Holiday Club on Wednesday 12th October. Please do come along and see what fun the children will be up to during the club. Even if you want a break through the holiday; in my experience the children love attending because of the activities they enjoy.

Dates for Diaries

Please do take the time to look at the 'Dates for Diaries' at the end of this Newsletter. All upcoming events and longer term information is recorded here. We are aiming to be a 'paperless' school and so most communication will be through text or email; please remember to check regularly.

Please do remember I am readily available if you have a question, query or have something you would like to share. I look forward to seeing you at the Open Event on Thursday.

Warm regards,

Pippa Villa

Dates for Diaries

March 16th Assessment Information Evening
March 24th Early Years Mother's Day Event
March 31st Easter Event/ Sing-a-Long

Easter Holidays April 3rd – 13th Holiday Club

Summer Term 2016-2017

April 18th School Back
April 21st St George's Day Cake Sale (P/TA)

May 1st Bank Holiday

May 2nd – 5th Learn-Along-Side-Week

Half Term May 29th – June 2nd Holiday Club

Residential Dates tbc
June 23rd Parent Panel Meeting

July
School Trips tbc
School Summer Productions tbc