

SUTTON CE (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 1

Welcome back! I hope that everyone has had a lovely summer; it was certainly lovely to have the opportunity to sit and feel the sun on our faces...

Parentmail

If you have received this Newsletter as a paper copy please consider signing up to Parentmail so that we can email newsletters and notices direct to you. You can pick up a form from the school office.

We know that Parentmail are still working on connecting new parents who wish to receive their Newsletters this way to the system. As soon as we have heard that they have completed this we will cease sending out paper copies to those families.

If you have had problems opening Parentmail try adding Parentmail to your address book to prevent it going to 'Spam' - www.parentmail.co.uk

Settling In

Our new Foundation Stage (FS) pupils have all settled quickly into their new routines. They've shown that they can find their way around the school and this week have been standing up in our assemblies so that we can all get to know their names and make family links to older brothers and sisters where appropriate.

Meet the Teacher Evenings

We've had a couple of staff changes for this school year and there will be an opportunity to meet the teaching staff on Thursday 18 September at our Meet the Teacher Evening. These are short meetings (45mins) designed to enable parents to get to know the teachers in each area of the school

and to find out a little bit more about the curriculum that is being taught.

The meetings will be held at the following times:

FS	7:00 – 7:45pm
Yr 1/2	6:00 – 6:45pm
Yr.3/4	7:00 – 7:45pm
Yr.5/6	6:00 – 6:45pm

Ofsted Report

On Tuesday we were able to release our most recent Ofsted Report following our school inspection at the end of term.

An electronic copy is now available on our school website:
www.sutton.cambs.sch.uk

If you did not receive a paper copy and would like one please do contact the school office and we will arrange for a copy to be sent home.

School Day

Our school day starts at 8.55 am and finishes at 3.00 pm.

Pupils and parents may start to arrive at school from 8:45am. We operate a 'staggered start' system and it is possible to leave children with their classteachers from 8:45am.

We have electronic registration in all of our classes. Pupils arriving after the registration has closed should go to the school office to notify the office staff of their arrival in school.

We politely ask that parents dropping children off do not wait near the doorways and gate ways as this ensures that all the exits are kept clear and allows all the children and teachers the opportunity to enter and exit the buildings in an orderly manner.

Absence from School

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school we ask that parents notify the school. This can be done by leaving a message on our automated phone system; the school number is 01353 778351.

Our school policy, in conjunction with health advice, is that a child suffering from sickness or diarrhoea should remain away from school for a full 48hrs **after** all the symptoms have stopped.

We do follow up any absence that we have not been told about but our efforts often end in failure due to parents not keeping their contact details current and up to date.

Please tell us if you change your details.

Violin Lessons

I am delighted to welcome Mrs Fiona Dagg to our school. Mrs Dagg is a music teacher who will be offering to teach the violin to pupils who would like to learn.

If you would like your child to learn to play this instrument please leave your contact details with the staff in the school office and Mrs Dagg will get in touch to provide further details.

Nuts

We have pupils at our school who have a severely allergy to nuts. Contact with nut based products will cause these pupils to become very ill. As a consequence our school community is a 'nut free' environment.

Parents of pupils who bring a packed lunch need to be aware that **no** nut based products are permitted. Please read the labels of products carefully as food items like chocolate spread are often made with a nut based product.

Holidays during Term Time

Our school Attendance Policy clearly states that we aim to minimise the amount of time lost to term time holidays through a policy which actively discourages parents from arranging family holidays during this time. Parents should not expect leave of absence to be granted automatically as leave for the purpose of a family holiday will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and not for multiple requests during a school year. If leave of absence is taken without authorization, it will be recorded in the schools attendance register as an unauthorised absence and may be referred to the school's Education Welfare Officer.

Absence during term time interrupts the continuity of teaching and learning and disrupts the educational progress of individual children. In a week lots of things can happen within the life of a school; children can miss whole areas of a topic being taught in maths or English. In addition the social aspects of a child's development including their friendships can move on making it difficult for the returning child to fit back in with their peer groups.

Parent Consultations

Each term there is the opportunity for parents to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss their progress. This term our Parent Consultations are on:

Thursday 9 October 3.30 – 5.30 pm

Thursday 20 November 5.30 – 7.30 pm

All appointments are 10 minutes in length. Appointments can be made by contacting the school office. Please note appointments cannot be made on the day of the consultation; this allows staff time to prepare for this event. It is not necessary for parents to attend every consultation held during the year.

School Diary

Coming out shortly will be our school diary. Please keep this safe as it contains details of school events throughout this academic year.

Jeans for Genes Day

On Friday 19 September we will be helping to raise money for the Jeans for Genes Charity. A separate letter will follow shortly to give parents more details about the charity and the event.

Family Assemblies

Details about our Family Assemblies will follow in the next Newsletter.

Better Reading Partners

We are currently recruiting parents/grandparents who would like to work with some of our children supporting their reading. Volunteers will need to be able to give at least 20 mins of their time a week on a regular basis and, in addition to this, be able to do a little bit of preparation at home before the reading sessions.

If you are interested in helping in this way please let our school office staff know. There are two training sessions on Friday 26 September and Monday 6 October both of which will run between 9:30am and 3:00pm at the latest.

Please leave your name at the office if you are interested. Thank you

School Dinners

The cost of a cooked school meal is **£2.15** per day. This is an increase of 10p from meals taken during the last school year.

Payment for a school meal must either be received in advance or on the day that the meal is taken.

Please note it is no longer possible to pay for a meal after your child has had their meal.

The School Menu issued at the end of last term is still valid for this term. We are still waiting for the additional copies of the menus, we hope that they will be in school shortly.

There is a large copy of the menu on the wall as you approach the school office from the playground entrance.

The cost of school meals for the week, half-term and term are below:

- Weekly £10.75
- Half Term Sept
15.09.14. until 23.10.14. £62.35
- Half Term Nov - Dec. £75.25

Please note the half termly amounts include a meal on 15.09.14. and have been calculated to allow for INSET Days when the school is closed to children.

Pupils in our Foundation Stage and KS1 are entitled to a Free School Meal under the new scheme introduced by central government on 1 September 2014.

It is possible for KS2 pupils to have a Free School Meal; a list of criteria is used to assess each individual application. If you think that you may be entitled to Free School Meals please call into the office to ask for a form.

As a school we are entitled to additional school based funding when a child is eligible for Free School Meals so please do apply if you think you may be eligible.

Dogs on the school grounds

Unfortunately it is not possible to bring dogs onto our school grounds. In the past few years we have seen a number of dogs react 'out of character'

when on the crowded playground and as a result we now ask parents and carers to refrain from bringing their pets onto the school grounds.

Yr 6 Transfer to Secondary School

It hardly seems possible that we are beginning to think about our current Yr 6 transferring to secondary school. However, the transfer process is beginning shortly and it is important that families spend time thinking about this decision. Last term our Yr 6 pupils left to attend the following schools:

Ely Community College
St Bedes School
Witchford Village College.
Wisbech Grammar School

Staff from Witchford Village College will be visiting our school on Tuesday 16 September to talk to our Yr 6 parents and pupils about their school and the transfer process.

The meeting will start at 3:30 pm and should last approximately 1.5 hrs. The meeting will be held in the school hall.

Witchford Area Schools Partnership (WASP)

Our school is part of the Witchford Area Schools Partnership (WASP). The Partnership is made up of the 7 primary schools, 1 special school and 1 secondary school that are located within the catchment area for Witchford Village College.

Over the last few years the Partnership has been working on a number of key issues collectively rather than each individual school working on these issues separately. Issues covered include:

- Yr 6 Transition to Secondary School
- Special Educational Needs
- Sharing good practice
- Inter-school sporting events
- Sharing Policies

Area Sports – 14 July 2014

Did your KS2 pupil participate in the WASP Area Sports Tournament held on Monday 14 July 2014?

If the answer to this question is yes please could you look at home to check that the school navy T shirt worn by the participating children was returned to the school at the end of term. With our school inspection taking place at the end of term it was quite tricky to keep a record of who had returned the tops and we now find that we are missing several of these T shirts.

Name Tags

Last term we collected a lot of school uniform that not named. If your child's school uniform is named it increases the chance of it being returned to your child if it gets lost.

The following website:

www.stuckonyou.com.au

has been brought to my attention as a possible source of good quality, durable labels. A search on Google has also identified a number of other sites that appear to sell similar products.

Leaflets

During the course of the year the school is often asked to distribute leaflets to parents which promote different activities for children taking place in and around the Sutton area.

Parents need to be aware that when engaging with these companies they should always check that the leaders are DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) enhanced checked and cleared. The school does not undertake these checks unless the organisation is working as part of the school or WASP provision.

Money for School

Please can parents place all money that is for any of our school activities, including school dinners, in a sealed envelope with your child's name and class on the front.

All monies can be taken to your child's class teacher.

There is also a black metal post box in the corridor outside our main office where parents can deposit payments.

Please remember payments for school meals can be made online using the Agora Payment System. This is a safer way to make payments. Details about this site will be sent to our new parents shortly.

Harvest Festival

We will be holding our annual Harvest Festival on Tuesday 7 October at St Andrew's Church. Pupils will be asked to come to school in the usual way and will be registered in their classes before lining up to walk to St Andrew's Church en masse.

When we walk to the church we use a 'family grouping' system whereby our older pupils walk with our younger pupils. However we do require a lot of adult/parent helpers to help supervise the pupils as we walk to the church. If you can help on the morning of Tuesday 6 October please contact your child's class teacher.

This year we would like the children to bring harvest gifts of non-perishable food – tins, bags of dried goods etc. **Please do not send your child to school with fresh food.**

School Newsletters

We send out a School Newsletter a Weekly basis. These are all numbered and dated to help parents

keep up to date with what is happening at school.

An electronic copy is placed on our school website, www.sutton.cambs.sch.uk if you mislay your copy.

Dates for the Half Term

Tuesday 16 September – WVC staff to talk to Yr 6 parents

Wednesday 17 September – Yr 5/6 Trip to Ely

Thursday 18 September – Meet the Teacher Evening –

Friday 19 September – Jeans for Genes Day

Tuesday 23 September – Governors Business Meeting 7:00pm

Yr 6 Creative Arts Morning at WVC

Tuesday 7 October – Harvest Festival @ St Andrew's Church

Thursday 9 October – Parent Consultations 3:30-5:30pm

Friday 10 October – Yr 5 to Ely Fire Station

Monday 13 October – Book Week starts

Tuesday 14 October – Theatre Visit to school

Tuesday 14 October - Governors Finance and Personnel Committee

Wednesday 15 October - School Book Shop in the school hall

Thursday 23 October – Phonics Evening for Foundation Stage Parents

Thursday 23 October – End of KS2 SATs Information Evening for Yr 6 Parents

Friday 24 October – INSET Day for teaching staff

Monday 27 October – Friday 31 October inc Half Term Holiday

Monday 3 November – School starts following Half Term holiday.

Thursday 13 November – Individual School Photographs

12.09.2014