



Spring Half Term Update

14.02.2020

Dear parents,

Headteacher recruitment

The appointment of the Interim Headteacher has now been finalised but we are unable to divulge any further details until she has completed the temporary cover arrangements in her own school. This should be completed w/c 3rd March.

We have been working on plans to ensure that there is a smooth transition, and I am already in communication with her and we will be working very closely together over the coming half term.

The advert for the new Headteacher in the longer term is now live on the website and the Governors are hoping for a strong field of applicants. We will keep you updated as soon as we have more information.

School improvement update

- The development of the Welfare Team and pastoral support has really come on in leaps and bounds this term – enabling so many children and families to work more closely with the school and receive the support they need.
- The new Early Years provision has established superbly and we have been really proud to show visitors and parents round and see the great learning taking place.
- Our Read, Write Inc phonics work has embedded well this term and we are already seeing a sharp rise in levels of reading take off!
- The refurbishment of many of the learning environments is continuing, enabling it to grow into a more welcoming and vibrant place to work and learn – the offices, entrances, Library and Music Room and 'The Bridge' pastoral spaces have been great additions, however we would love to finish the studio and redecorate the corridors. If you can offer a few hours one weekend to help us further our refurbishment work then please get in touch with the school office, so we can arrange working parties (with pizza and chocolate thrown in!)
- We have been working hard to ensure staff have support and training to develop their practice and be the best they can, in order to serve the children the best they can and our classroom monitoring shows that you can really see many of the new initiatives making a difference to the learning and encouraging signs of progress.

Behaviour Policy

All schools in Cambridgeshire are encouraged to take on the 'Step-on' approach to Behaviour Management which our own Behaviour Policy is based around. All staff at the school have had training in this therapeutic approach to behaviour. We understand that sometimes parents are concerned by things their children share, however we can assure you that when issues do arise they are well managed by staff to ensure children are safe and disruption is kept to an absolute minimum. We are grateful to those that have come to use with questions or concerns and are always pleased to be able to explain what our support provision looks like and reassure.

We would like to share more information with you about this and for anyone interested in our pastoral provision in classrooms and 'The Bridge' will have an opportunity for parent information session with Mrs Wallace.

Please sign up at the office if you are interested in learning more: Tuesday 25th February at 9.30am or Wednesday 4th March at 5pm.

Drama Club

The lunchtime Drama club was launched recently and has been a huge success and proved very popular. This term the places are full, however there will be an opportunity to sign up for a place after Easter. Once the forms have been released for the new registration, please return them as soon as possible to register your child's interest. Letters will be sent out before the Easter holidays.

For those currently attending this term, both classes will now run together on a Tuesday only.

Medical Appointments

We understand that parents do not have control over hospital appointments and occasionally an emergency appointment may be necessary. When booking your child for a medical appointment with dentist, doctor or optician etc, please ensure the office is made aware of these in advance of the day of the appointment, and wherever possible we urge you to book scheduled appointments for them later in the school day, or ideally after school or during the school holidays so as to minimise disruption to the class and your child's learning.

School day hours

Registration takes place at 8.55am. Classrooms are open from 8.45am to allow children to settle in class before the day begins. Gates are open from 8.40am to allow parents time to take their children to the right school door. We understand that this has been a little late on occasion lately however thanks to those that brought this to our attention we have since resolved this.

Parking

Whilst we are lucky enough to be situated next to the car park at the Brooklands Centre, this is a public car park. Please park considerately and sensibly to ensure the safety of pedestrians. We ask this as there has recently been a sharp rise in concerns raised by various members of the public who have witnessed a 'near miss' and we have genuine concerns over the safety of the children.

This includes **parking on the approach road to the car park**. It is not safe to park here as not only does it limit visibility for pedestrians crossing on the speed bumps, but it limits access in and out of the carpark, causing traffic to back up onto The Brook – accident data is clear that congestion is a further risk to pedestrians. It is also not acceptable to park in the gravel area at the front of the school. Many cars have recently been taking advantage of the lack of front gates and driving onto the gravel parking area at school drop off and collection times. This is not an area for parents to park in and with vehicles moving around at these busy times of day it is a cause for concern and a serious safety issue.

Absence

From time to time it is necessary for staff to be absent from school for a variety of reasons; training courses, illness or other absences beyond their control. Whilst we appreciate parents and regular visitors to the school often care about the welfare of our staff members and are genuinely concerned about what appear to be extended absences, speculation, assumptions and gossip can potentially be harmful and upsetting for staff as this is an invasion of their privacy, particularly when it is in open forums and on social media. It is not acceptable or appropriate to discuss personal circumstances of any staff member through these channels.

School uniform

This is a gentle reminder that all children should be in school uniform every day. This includes appropriate footwear (e.g. not trainers unless there is a specific medical reason to do so and not open toe sandals), navy sweatshirt/cardigan (not hoodies outside of PE lessons). We have noticed a recent rise in jewellery and painted/false nails which we have addressed with individuals, however we felt a general reminder was needed.

School access

Please note the office is manned from 8.30am until 4pm daily. Parents are not permitted to visit the school or wait in the Reception area before 8.30am or after 4pm, unless by prior appointment. If your child is attending a Premier Sport or other after school club, the Sports Coach/lead will allow entry via the fire exit once the session is finished. As with any other clubs including dance, exercise, it is the responsibility of the hirer of the hall to permit access to the building, and again this is into the hall only.

No parents or spectators are permitted to loiter in the reception area. All hirers of the hall have been advised.

Governor Vacancies Update

Following our recent letter regarding Parent Governor vacancies, we are delighted to announce that we have received two self-nomination forms, and have therefore filled the two parent Governor vacancies. Our new parent Governors are Mrs Sorcha Rayner and Mrs Jessica Webb. We look forward to working with the appointees in their Governor capacity once their induction is complete.

With very best wishes for the Spring break,



Mrs Emily Gore-Rowe
Headteacher

Please find below some important dates for the next half term. We hope you all have a wonderful break and will see you back in school on Monday 24th February.

Dates for your diary
<u>February</u> 24 th First day of school 25 th 9.30am Behaviour 'Step-on' parent session 28 th 10-12.30pm Y5 Hockey <u>March</u> 3 rd – Primary Proms trip – KS2 4 th – 5pm Behaviour 'Step-on' parent session 4 th – Parent workshop – screentime battles 5 th – World Book Day 6 th – Sport Relief tournament day 9 th – Beginning of Science week 12 th – Parent Consultations 13 th – Stibbington trip - Turq/Aqua 16 th – Stibbington trip - Tanz/Cit 17 th – Parent Consultations Wc 16 th – Mothers Day lunch 18 th – Class photographs 20 th – Stibbington trip - Zir/Carn <u>April</u> 3 rd – 9.30am-10.30am Easter service

Primary Proms Trip

We recently sent home a letter on MCAS about the Primary Proms trip to Lincoln on 3rd March. This trip is for KS2 and is on a first come first served basis. For anyone who has submitted their form, you will find out shortly whether your child's place has been secured.

Class Photographs

The photographer will be in school on Wednesday 18th March to take class photographs. Please ensure your child is in full school uniform.

World Book Day – 5th March

To celebrate World Book Day we are inviting the pupils to come into school dressed as their favourite book character. There will also be other events happening around school that day. More details to follow.

Y5 Hockey

This is an event with limited numbers of spaces, pupils will be informed shortly as to whether they have been successfully included in the event which is to take place off site. Parents will be required to provide transport or make arrangements for their child. More details to follow.

Science Week

National Science week is taking place in March, and further details of what's happening in School will be announced after half term.

Sport Relief tournament

Further details regarding the Sport Relief tournament will be released after half term regarding the in house event.

Stibbington Trip – KS2

You should have now received a copy of the letter regarding the Stibbington trip for KS2. This has been issued on MCAS.

Mothers Day lunches

We are still finalising details around arrangements and will be able to share more details with you after half term.

Parent Consultations – 12th and 17th March

Parent Consultations have been added to MCAS this afternoon and will take place on Thursday 12th March and Tuesday 17th March. If you are having any problems accessing MCAS please do contact the office.

Easter Service

As is tradition we will be holding our Easter Service at the church for the whole school on 3rd April at 9.30am. We expect this to last for an hour, and parents are welcome to walk to and from the church with their child, but please do let your child's teacher know to expect you. We will leave the school straight after morning registration at 9.10am

Term dates

Please note the term dates on the school website are correct and up to date and can be found at www.sutton.cambs.sch.uk We have recently agreed term dates for the next academic year including inset days, but these are yet to be agreed with the Local Authority. As soon as they are available we will communicate them on the website.