

## Sytchampton Endowed Primary School

Stourport-on-Severn,  
Worcestershire  
DY13 9SX.  
Tel: 01905 620418 Fax: 01905 621309

Email: [office@sytchampton.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@sytchampton.worcs.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.sytchampton.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.sytchampton.worcs.sch.uk)



5th September 2016.

Dear parents,

I hope you all had a great summer break; it was wonderful to visit classes today and see so many children pleased to be back at school!

We are now a full primary school and our total number is 93; with just a few spaces in reception and KS2. I'm sure you will agree that the whole of Eagles (year 5 and 6) look very smart in their blazers and I know they will rise to the challenge of upper KS2. I would like to welcome our new families to Sytchampton.

We are all looking forward to another successful year as we grow both our school and our learners! Our aim is to provide a creative curriculum, based around topic themes, and we will be encouraging children to achieve their best in a safe and stimulating learning environment. We are very keen to involve our families and our first celebration assembly will be held this Friday at 2.30pm (these are held every 2 weeks). There will also be opportunities to see children's work on our Open morning (Oct 13th) which is for both prospective and our existing families, and during the year children enjoy sharing their learning through presentations/performances to parents. I attach our initial diary dates for the Autumn term.

### Improved security.

The future widening of Cow Lane has enabled us to re-site our fence line and take the fence along the path with a much higher entrance gate onto the playground. This access onto the car park has always concerned us and so we are pleased to have come up with solution. Can I remind parents to use the community centre car park for access to school and wrap around care. We are very lucky to have the use of the car park and we ask parents to pay an annual fee of £12.50 to contribute to our payment to the parish council. Can I please ask that cars are parked as close together as possible and follow the existing system? Please supervise children on the car park and escort them down the pathway to the new gate and onto the playground for an 8.50am start, pupils are not supervised by staff until 8.45am. I have asked children not to run around or use the play equipment in the morning since our playground is now much busier. At the end of the day can I remind parents that they do not need to be on the playground until 2.55pm, ready for 3.00pm end of day. The widening of Cow Lane will considerably help the car park system but as yet I do not have a date for completion.

### Children's results.

I am very pleased to report that our reported results were all above Worcestershire and National expectations: 82 % of our Early years achieved a good level of development , 92 % year 1 passed phonics and 84 % achieved age related expectations in KS 2 SATS in Reading , Maths and Writing. WELL DONE TO CHILDREN AND STAFF FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK.



### **Early Years Reading Information evening.**

We would like to invite our new parents to a reading evening on Wednesday 14th Sept from 6-7pm. This will give Miss Waring and Miss Gilmour the opportunity to share how we teach reading and phonics so that you can support your children at home. Refreshments will be provided and it will be a good opportunity to meet each other and for you to give us some feedback.

### **Uniform and P.E. kit**

Please can you ensure that ALL uniform is labelled clearly. We would also like to keep P.E. kit in school from Monday – Friday (pupils get changed in school) in case there are changes to the timetable or to take advantage of good weather. Can you also ensure that the kit includes outdoor kit (dark coloured tracksuit bottoms and a top) as we intend to go outside as much as possible. In reception and KS1 it would also be helpful if children have wellies in school at all times. Hawks will have swimming on Wednesdays, starting 14<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Staffing**

We welcome Miss Gilmour, our new Falcons teacher. Following the retirement of Miss Stanley, which was agreed in July, Miss Hopkins will be supporting Falcons. I would like to thank Miss Stanley for her service to the school both in class and after school care, and wish her all the best for her retirement.

Mrs Oliver (French), Mrs Martin (Music), Mrs Cotocea ( KS2 French) and Miss Edwards ( Art) will be returning to cover our teacher's PPA time on Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings. These sessions embrace our broad curriculum and give every child the opportunity to develop additional skills.

### **Homework**

Reception : Children have phonics cards and are then introduced to books, they also have the opportunity to write a weekend dairy entry when they take Melvin ( our friendly dragon) home for the weekend.

Ospreys : pupils will have Year 1 or year 2 spelling list and these will also be taught daily in school alongside phonics, children will be tested on Thursday. We encourage parents to hear children every day and develop a love for reading ; which such an important skill and is the key to learning across the curriculum. We also ask you to practise times tables and number sense. Topic work will also be set.

Hawks and Eagles: We will continue with our homework booklet for spellings and times tables and a discussion question. Additional work will be available for Eagles to compliment class work in English and Maths to reinforce classwork. Additional topic work will be set and linked to our J2E software. Further guidance for year 6 will follow separately.

### **Holiday Clubs**

Thank you to our WAC team for running some successful sessions in the holidays. Our next holiday offer will be 3 days in October half term and our January TED day on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan (dependent upon demand).

### **School Council**

I am looking forward to taking our School Council to the Houses of Parliament on Wednesday, which was arranged following the visit of our local MP. On Friday 23rd Sept School Council would like to support '**Jeans for Genes' day**. This charity helps families with genetic disorders. So children, for a £1 donation, will have a non – uniform day and wear jeans if possible.

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School Transfers in KS2 Year 4 parents shortly receive letter regarding pupil transfer in year 4, we hope that pupils will stay until Yr 6, but we appreciate that some may follow the Middle school route at year 4 or year 6. I would like to confirm we have an agreement with Stourport High that we will be a feeder school from Sept 2017, they have already booked sessions to work with our pupils, but parents will have the freedom to look at any local secondary school for their year 7 place in the Autumn of 2016.

### Parental Involvement.

**PTA Annual General Meeting on Thursday 15th Sept at 7.30pm.** Please support our PTA who do an amazing job in fundraising for all the extras in school, for example, our text messaging service, Christmas activities, funding for trips, new laptops. However, they can only achieve all this if they have a committee to steer events along – this is a great way to meet others and most of all have fun!

We also have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our Finance sub- Committee- details to follow.

Thank you for your continued support,

Sharon Williams,

Head teacher

