

Sytchampton Endowed Primary School



5th September 2017

Dear parents,

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

Our Primary School continues to thrive and I am delighted to report our total number is 102 pupils. I would like to welcome our new families to Sytchampton; I know you will make them welcome. The children seem very settled and this reflects all the work staff did in the summer term getting to know them. Eagles (year 5 and 6) all look very smart in their blazers and we have a high expectations for them; leading the school through our school council, house captains, as school ambassadors and preparing for the transition to secondary school. Look out for secondary school open evenings which usually start in October.

We are all looking forward to another successful year as we grow both our school and our learners! 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 5th) which is for both prospective and our existing families, and during the year children will enjoy sharing their learning through presentations/performances to parents. I attach our initial diary dates for the Autumn term.

Children's results.

I am very pleased to report that our reported results were all above Worcestershire and National expectations: 80 % of our Early years achieved a good level of development, 85% year 1 passed phonics and 92 % achieved age related expectations in KS 1 SATS in Reading and Maths, and 84% in Writing. In KS2 our first year 6 cohort of 9 children achieved 100% pass in Reading, Maths and Grammar and 89% in Writing. WELL DONE TO CHILDREN AND STAFF FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK.

Our targets this year will focus on spelling with the introduction of 'No Nonsense spelling' from year 2 – 6. We are also looking at our reading schemes and will continue to focus on reasoning/challenge in maths.

School Priorities

On our Training day we reviewed our school development plan and our key priorities are:

- To encourage learners to gain confidence and make progress through quality teaching, feedback on learning, a growth mind-set and independent attitude.
- Continue to establish our Primary school by encouraging positive behaviours and attitudes to prepare children for each stage of their learning journey.
- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum which is relevant, linked to exciting experiences (visits/visitors) and to key skills.
- To encourage pupils to be caring and thoughtful, understand how to stay fit and healthy and to appreciate cultural differences in the world we live in.

How can you help?

Attendance and prompt arrival.

Attendance is key to children's learning and good attendance means that pupils will have few gaps in learning. If a pupil is just 5 minutes late every day this equates to 3 full days missed in a school year. We follow a sequence of learning to meet the needs of the curriculum. We do understand the exceptional circumstances, for example, the 14 cases of chicken pox we had in the summer term.

With regards to illness, we have a child in Year 1 who underwent a liver transplant as a small baby and as a result has a low immune system. This means she has to avoid contact with viruses such as chickenpox, so please ensure you advise the school office IMMEDIATELY if you suspect your child has chickenpox. Thank you.

Timetable

As I explained last term we have extended our morning sessions to 12.15pm with break at 10.30am. It is important that children have had breakfast and bring a healthy snack; we do have fruit available and milk is provided free of charge to children under 5 years old (and can be purchased via our CoolMilk scheme for older children if you wish). We are a healthy school and encourage children to drink water from their labelled water bottles.

Early Years Reading Information evening.

We would like to invite our new parents to a reading evening on Monday 18th September from 6-7pm. This will give Miss Gilmour and Miss Hopkins 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 parents and for you to give us some feedback.

Uniform and P.E. kit

Please can you ensure that ALL uniform is labelled clearly, with minimal jewellery and school appropriate hair accessories. 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 please 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 20th September.

Homework

Reception : Children have phonics cards and are then introduced to books, they also have the opportunity to write a weekend diary entry when they take Cwtch (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 Monday. We encourage parents to hear children read 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 : We will continue with our homework booklet for spellings and times tables and a discussion question. Additional topic work will be set and we encourage children to read widely at home.

Eagles : use the CGP books in Maths and English and pages are completed to reinforce class work. These then become important revision booklets for SATs tests. Spellings will be tested on Friday and again encourage children to read widely.

Parental Involvement.

PTA Annual General Meeting on Thursday 14th Sept at 7.00pm in school. 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 Governor on our Finance sub –committee - details to follow.

We look forward to seeing you at Celebration assemblies and parent consultations.

Car Park .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 (which we collect and pass on to the parish council). Can I 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 gate and onto the playground for an 8.50am start - pupils are not supervised by the member of staff on duty until 8.45am. I have asked children not to run around or use the play equipment in the morning to ensure a calm start to the day. 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 finish. The widening of Cow Lane will considerably help the car park system but as yet I do not have a date for completion.

Staffing

I am pleased to report that there are no changes in our staff team and this term we have trainee teachers supporting us in Ospreys and Hawks classes.

Thank you to our WAC team for running very successful sessions in the holidays and thank you for your support to make these viable. We offer wrap around care from 8.00am breakfast club and after school until 6pm Monday – Thursdays and 5pm on Fridays.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions, your feedback is very much appreciated.

Sharon Williams, Head teacher