



Ravensmead Primary School

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No.1 NEWSLETTER

9th September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new children and families who have started in Nursery and, of course, the grown up children who are now full time in our Reception. We would particularly like to welcome the 17 families whose children have gone directly into our Reception classes. Ravensmead is now virtually full. We do still have places in Nursery, Reception and a very small number in Key Stage 1. We are now saying, however, that we are full in all classes from Year 3 to Year 6. The children have made a very smooth and happy start to the term and I thank you for your support in this matter.

I am sure that you will share my delight by the news that Mrs Grocott's baby girl finally entered this world during the Summer holiday. We would like to wish her new family every happiness, good health and success in the future, offering our congratulations and best wishes.

I thought I would write to you to highlight a number of important areas:

Paperwork Sent Home

Already you will be aware that we have sent home a number of papers. We do attempt not to "overdo" it and most documents can also be found on our website which I would encourage you to visit regularly. A small number of additional copies will be placed in the rack to the left of the school entrance door.

You should have received a Curriculum letter with this Newsletter outlining the areas of learning for your child in their year group. Yesterday we sent home the Parental Consent Form and Data Sheet, as you can imagine it is very important that we have these consents and all the information such as contacts and medical information on the Data Sheet. In addition today we are required to send out Asthma Care Plan and Emergency Inhaler document to all families. If your child is asthmatic we would ask that you return the Care Plan and also the Medication Consent Form. Schools have to send these documents out to all parents and we are advised that some children come off the register with new ones receiving a diagnosis. Only if your child is asthmatic should you return this document but it is vital that we have an up to date Asthma Register in school. (Due to the number of documents, we will send out the Extra Curricular Clubs letter next week).

It would be helpful if every family could return the Consent Form and Data Sheets by next Friday September 16th and for those whose children have asthma to return Care Plans and Consent Forms by the same date.

The Start and Finish of The Day

A reminder that Reception and Key Stage 1 children should enter school at 8.50am and for Key Stage 2 the gate to the playground will be opened by staff at 8.50 and will close at 8.55. Children will not be supervised before 8.50am.

Silver Fox Care Club can be contacted on 07813 679706 and will look after your child from 7.30 in the morning up to 6pm in the evening. The doors to the Breakfast Club will open from 8.40am and will close promptly, pupils will go directly to class from here.

Parking

We are extremely grateful to the Parish Council and the Audley Football Club for allowing the use of their car park. The car park will be open in the morning but will need to be locked promptly at 9am. After school it will need to be locked at 3.30. Once again we are grateful to our friends at the Methodist Chapel who

agree to allow our parents to drop off and collect from their car park. Parents should not, however, park here for the duration of a school activity, e.g. Class Assembly or Workshop as the Chapel themselves would no longer have available parking for their own functions. Clearly The Football and The Chapel accept no responsibility whatsoever for cars using their spaces. **You use these facilities at your own risk.**

As you know, safety is the school priority and, therefore, can I remind you of a number of other measures we take to help avoid accidents at these busy times.

We would ask that....

- Parents avoid dropping off and turning near the school entrance and families should not exit the school through the main gates (keeping cars and pedestrians apart).
- Parents should not park at the farm entrance. It is regularly used by farm machinery but also that side of the road is a walkway for many families and we have had incidents in the past where cars have almost reversed into children. **If you choose to park or turn there you are placing children and parents at risk.** (Sorry for this, but it needs saying)
- We would also ask that parents avoid walking through the main gates as vision is poor and sometimes cars are entering and leaving at these busy times.
- We would ask that you park courteously in the streets at all times, and ensure close supervision and good behaviour of your children around the Chapel, the flats and in the local streets.
- We would ask that parents do not use the Staff Car Park. There is not enough parking space for the staff themselves. Parents dropping off at the Silver Fox Care Club should not enter the Staff Car Park after 8.15am but rather park on the street and walk their child into the Care Club.
- Parents will be aware that we offer a "surgery" with teachers for a short time after school on a Wednesday and the Reading/Homework Diary is a daily vehicle for communication but if outside these times parents wish to speak to teachers they must sign in and sign out in the Visitors Book.

Uniform

The children look very smart and due to your support at home with labelling, lost property so far is minimal. Please ensure that PE Kit, Sandwich Boxes and Water Bottles are all labelled.

Reading and Homework

All research indicates that partnerships between school and families are vital in terms of supporting child development in all areas. Could I ask you to sign your child's Reading and Homework Diary nightly, commenting and signing the Reading column and monitoring closely your child's homework to check for content and completion.

Website

Can I encourage you to regularly visit the school website. There have been many recent changes. I hope that you and your children find it interesting and informative. Although you will receive a hard copy of this first newsletter, future letters will be posted on the website and you will be notified by text. We will also include copies of school presentation materials, educational visit letters etc etc. The website also includes a wide range of statutory information which you can access including, for example, Safeguarding Policies, School Standards e.g. Data Dashboard and Performance Table links. Information about how the school determines expenditure under "Pupil Premium" and "PE and Sports Grant" headings can also be found on the website. Any parental suggestions for inclusion in the website, as usual, would be very welcome.

Audley Parish Goes Pink

Once again we wish to support this community fundraising initiative. Pupils and staff are encouraged to wear an item of pink (this could be pink socks, pink headband, pink badge pink scarf etc), Friday September 16th, bringing a 50p contribution for the Breast Cancer.org charity.

On behalf of the school staff and the Governing Body can I thank you for your support as we embark again on another exciting academic year, always remembering that Primary education should be the most exciting and wondrous of times for young people. You will be aware from the top of this newsletter that the school has gained a number of Quality Marks, we will shortly put the Inclusion Quality Mark Report from 28th June 2016 on our website, I offer you here a few sentences from the report. "Children here flourish. They know that they are known! They recognise, and trust, that the school will nourish and nurture them. The culture of equitable sharing gives enormous power to all learning and teaching. Children are unafraid to explore and investigate". Presently a school's job is to meet all external requirements and expectations but to ensure that the primary school experience is a special time to remember for the children for the rest of their lives. Sometimes this may appear to be a tricky balancing act.

Mr D Bell, Headteacher