



St Nicholas^{CE}
First School

learning and believing, growing and achieving

St. Nicholas CE
First School, Codsall
Belvide Gardens
Codsall
Wolverhampton
WV8 1AN

Friday 2nd February 2018

Dear Parents

Over the last two weeks both staff and children seem to have been hit by the dreaded bug! I am aware that this is going around a number of schools and that we are not alone. Once again we are talking to children about good hygiene and the importance of handwashing. Please only send children in to school when they are well. Whilst good attendance is obviously important to us, we want to maintain staffing levels and safeguard other children from catching any illnesses where we can.

As you may remember since coming back to school I have been supporting Birches First School one day a week. Apologies if I have not been as visible of late, with meetings, courses and trying to cram 4 days into 5, this has been a busy month, but now that good working patterns have been established I would hope to be more present at the start and end of the school day to catch up with parents and welcome children to school. Birches is a lovely school and we have already found that we can share some really good practice for the benefit of both schools through the next two terms.

You may in your workplace or through media coverage be aware of the [GDPR](#) (General Data Protection Regulation) which is in force from May 2018. I want to assure parents that we are currently reviewing the data we collect, share and store in the school to ensure that we are compliant with this. As part of this it may be that we need to issue parents with one or two letters and forms explaining where data is shared and seek additional parental consent. I will bring more news of this once the office team and I have met.

Next week we champion the message of [Safer Internet Day](#) in school. As part of this we welcome Saltmine Trust in to school to perform their play Escape which is targeted at Year 3 and 4 pupils. Please see [here](#) to hear a member of the theatre company explaining the meaning behind the play as well as the educational themes that are shared through drama. Please look [here](#) for resources that can support children and parents in exploring some of the issues at home.

Well done to 4G children who this week delivered a very entertaining and interesting worship about the school value Trust. Children prepared a video telling the story of Joshua and the Walls of Jericho, complete with sound effects, beards and lots of trumpeting! It was a delight to see the children share their offering so confidently. Here they are.



Wishing you all a peaceful weekend.

Best wishes

Miss J Parker

Head Teacher



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Superstars of the week!

Class/Award	Name	Reason
N1	Trinity Gray	For making a lovely alien with the 2D shapes.
N2	Max Evans	For engaging in our space theme and making volcanoes on planet Mars!
RB	Emily Richardson	For writing independently about animals!
RP	Star Johnson	For her excellent Maths, ordering numbers to 20 and matching quantity.
1W	Lucas Thacker	For excellent use of his phonics sounds.
1R	Sophie Jones	For super independent work in Maths, finding pairs to 5.
2A	Euan Robb	For excellent explanations as part of our Science investigations.
2S	Charlie Deaville	For super Science work this week!
3HW	Nicholas Jevons	For super work on "time" as part of Maths this week!
3M	Charlie Tunnicliff	For always being so well organised and ready to learn.
4W	Dominic Teale	For brilliant work and input in all lessons.
4G	Finley Knight	For demonstrating care, compassion, thoughtfulness and respect for the wider community.

Parents Evening Reminder

You will have received a letter inviting you to book an appointment online to attend your child's Parents Evening. This will be an opportunity to look at your child's books and discuss progress made and any other issues parents wish to raise. Please do book on promptly should you need a specific time, as appointments are allocated on a first come first served basis. You can access the link to book through the school website homepage (scroll down towards bottom of page and look for the symbol to the right) or by clicking [here](#).



parentsevening
system



Check any apps and games your child is using at home, not only on iPads etc, but also on phones. Be aware that many apps allow social networking within them; may provide your child's GPS location and expose them to strangers. Even games that are aimed at children have this feature and obviously leave them open to abuse.

School Lunchtimes

We are making some changes at lunchtimes in respect of sandwich children which will commence as of next week. We hope that by making you aware you can seek to encourage and support your child in understanding the expectation.

Currently children throw any waste in the lunch hall bins. This can be problematic when parents then assume their child has eaten everything they have sent in, but a clever child can choose an opportune moment when the bin is free of adult sight and throw things away they would rather not eat. Many of our children prioritise playing over eating and will try and get lunch over and done with as quickly as possible to get out to play. Therefore from Monday onwards we will be asking children to return any uneaten/semi-eaten lunchbox contents home so parents can see exactly what has or has not been eaten. We will allow half eaten sloppy contents such as yogurts etc to be disposed of so as to minimise mess and leaky lunchboxes being returned home.

A second issue which we require your support for is the issue of contents of children's lunchboxes. Issues around this can be wide ranging, but include:

- Children who have what can seem like a hamper filled with too much food that means they miss most of lunchtime trying to plough their way through it or feel overfaced.
- Children who are bringing in sweets, packets of Haribo, chocolate bars, supersize packets of crisps etc are not only against the school rules, but very unhealthy for the children. Where we know children have lunchboxes filled with such items we can often see a deterioration in behaviour and concentration when the afternoon learning commences (children are either hyped up or sluggish).

We would expect that a suitable lunchbox might comprise of the following items and would hope that this is enough to sustain children throughout the afternoon until home time:

- Sandwiches/wraps or other carb and protein source, crackers etc
- A piece of fruit or carrot sticks, cucumber etc or similar
- A yogurt or similar
- A sensibly sized packet of crisps or biscuit/cereal bar
- A drink

As a school we know you know your children best and will know the items from the categories above that are suitable for them to eat that they will like. Many of us will remember lunchtimes as being a more anxious time of the day from our own school experiences, our dinner hall is very busy with over 365 children to be served or seated. If parents could be mindful of the issues raised above we would really appreciate your support and help. For some children food and eating can be a sensitive topic. Whilst we do obviously try to police what children are eating, due to the volume of children having lunch this can sometimes be difficult. We do not wish to be put in the position where we are challenging your child about what they are eating when we know the responsibility for providing the lunch lies with the adults not the child. If any adults feel that their child or they need support with anything linked to school lunchboxes either from the school or through the school nurse then as always do let us know and we will be happy to help where we can.

Reminder that Reception, Year 1 and 2 should not bring snack to school as government funded fruit and veg is provided. Children in Years 3 and 4 should bring 1 item for snack only and this should not be chocolate bars and packets of crisps.