



St Nicholas CE (VC)
First School

learning and believing, growing and achieving

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

Friday 6th October 2017

Dear Parents

First of all a very big thank you to all who came along to our first parents' evening of the school year. It was lovely to see so many families represented and I know the children are always excited for their parent/s to come and see how they have settled in to their new year groups.

Holidays in Term Time

You will notice towards the end of the school newsletter I have attached a [letter](#) from Staffordshire County Council informing parents of changes to the school's duty within the Absence Policy and how this relates to persistent absence and holidays in term time. As a school we have noticed an increase in the number of parents requesting holidays in term time and as parents know we are unable to authorise such occasions, unless in very rare and exceptional circumstances. Please do think carefully about the implications of booking holidays in term time, not just financially (in terms of any associated fines), but also for your child in missing time in school.

Harvest Festival

May I remind parents that next Tuesday at 10am we celebrate our school Harvest Festival at church with children in Years 1-4. Please do come along to the service and support if you are able to. It will be lovely to see parents in church for Mrs Witcombe's final service with us at St Nicholas. Please ensure children all have their Water Aid bottle shakers and any Harvest produce in school on Monday 2nd October, leaving Tuesday 3rd October for any who might forget. (See message from Mrs Sollom later on in newsletter).

Staffing

As mentioned above, Mrs Witcombe will leave us at half term to move house with Rev Simon as he takes on a new role in Gloucestershire. Mrs Hammond will be joined by Miss French in 3HW after half term. Miss French will work on a Monday, Tuesday and be available in school on a Wednesday morning to hand over to Mrs Hammond, to ensure consistency for children in 3HW. We look forward to giving Mrs Witcombe and Rev Simon a good send off in school. Also at half term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Swan and Mrs Hughes (for a short time) as she starts her maternity leave. We look forward to hearing of the safe arrival of the babies after half term.

First Aid and Medical Policy

We have been reviewing policies in school in light of parent feedback. Please see new information, relating to procedures around head bumps. As I am sure you can imagine with lots of small children and countless staff we have many little bumps and accidents that are of little concern or consequence to the child, although they do as we ask and tell a grown

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up about them. In addition to this in the colder months, despite our trying to teach the children about this, the number of visitors to the medical room inevitably increases with little ones enjoying a trip to sit on the cosy bed in the warm. In and amongst these frequent incidents we also have more serious accidents whereby a more significant level of first aid is required.

However all staff work under the expectation that if a head bump is reported by a pupil (despite there being little or no evidence of any injury) that this should be recorded formally and treatment such as an ice pack administered as a precautionary measure. All children who have a head bump, be it minor or major then have a second check throughout the day by Miss Ball (our afternoon First Aider) and a slip is sent home. We have reviewed the slips we send home and you will notice these will contain more information than previously to support parents. We will always ask children to put these in their bags safely.

As you can read in the extract from the revised policy a text will be sent for all minor bumps so that parents know to look in their child's bag or check in person if collecting with the child's teacher. This may mean however that you are asked to wait until the class has been dismissed as the supervision of the class will always be the class teacher's priority. As has always been the case we will call parents immediately if a bump or injury is serious, based on the information we are provided with at the time and your child's physical presentation. For a more detailed explanation, please see the policy extract at the end of this week's newsletter.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend. Autumn is most definitely here, the children in Year 1 have loved throwing leaves and kicking their way through them down on the Walton Gardens end of the playground this week!

Best wishes

Miss J Parker
Head Teacher

PTFA News

Don't forget our PTFA Film Night on Monday. We hope the children who have booked their places look forward to coming along! Our **Fireworks Night** will take place on **Friday 3rd November** and details on how to buy tickets will be coming home to you soon. This event is open to the public so do bring along other family and friends. As always it will be cheaper to buy your tickets in advance rather than on the gate so do look out for the letter.

Our Christmas Card team have already been into school to get the children creating pictures for their Christmas Cards. Proof cards will be coming home before half term. We realise this is very early to be thinking about Christmas, but the sooner we get the orders in the more money the cards make for school.

After a successful trial last year, we are pleased to be hosting another **Tea and cake with Santa** on **Saturday 9th December**. This will be a ticketed event and the price will include a visit to Santa in his grotto, hot drinks and a slice of cake. We would be very grateful for some extra Elves to help us at this event, if you are available please do let us know. Thank you for your continued support with our fundraising.

Lou Griffiths Chair

Superstars of the week!

Class/Award	Name	Reason
N1	Frankie Rickards	For settling into Nursery and beginning to make new friends.
N2	Izzy Millard	For always having a go at activities and being a good friend.
RB	Jacob Orłowski	For being well behaved and showing super listening.
RP	Eva Murday	For challenging herself in the classroom, writing a wonderful list of what we might grow in the garden!
1W	Ashley McCambridge	For his super sounding out in his writing.
1R	Nathaniel Aver	For superb independent story writing.
2A	Chloe Elliman	For coming up with excellent adjectives to describe Autumn leaves.
2S	Emily Jarvis	For her super work in Maths this week using a number line to add and subtract multiples of ten.
3HW	Joel Proverbs	For outstanding work produced this week in Art!
3M	Summer Curry	For settling into 3M fantastically! Super Maths this week using a column method.
4W	Joshua Awosika	For fantastic work in Maths and showing great reasoning skills.
4G	Charlie Winsper	For outstanding language ideas in his writing!

A message from Mrs Sollom

We have had a super response to our WaterAid appeal with some fantastic water bottle rain shakers. Just a reminder that the children will be taking these to church on Tuesday for our Harvest festival. Please ensure all bottles are brought to school ready for Tuesday. Donations will be counted and the grand total collected for WaterAid shared with you next week as well as the winners for the most creative design from each class.

Staffordshire Stars



As a school we have pledged to achieve the Staffordshire Stars award, developing a school travel plan and leading on community awareness with regard to health, walking to school and sustainability. Children have taken part in a transport census this week in class and will be bringing home various leaflets and goodies over the school year. Please get involved with this as much as you can! We want all of our children to be fit, safe and well and working towards increasing activity levels, planning safe walking routes and reducing carbon emissions is a positive focus for us all!

Please click [here](#) for a teaser video from our Strictly St Nics dance rehearsals before and after school. Tickets go on sale next week, look out for letters!

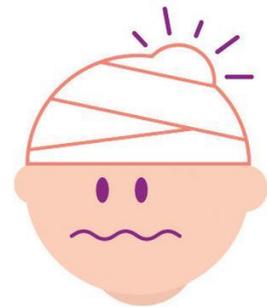
Extract from the First Aid Policy relating to Head Bumps

"The First Aider will check every afternoon that any child noted in the medical book as having a bumped head is checked during the afternoon. Any child who has received a bumped head will be wearing a bumped head sticker and a note will be given to the child's class teacher which will alert him/her to send the child to the medical room at playtime to be checked.

Once the sticker has been seen, the sticker is to be removed and a note will be given to the child to give to parent at the end of the day, informing them of the bumped head (this letter will include detailed information and the time of the incident).

The First Aider on duty will take a list of the children with minor head bumps to the office at the end of afternoon playtime so that a text alert can be sent to parents. Parents having received the text should then check their child's bag for the head bump note for more information. Parents should not need to contact the school as further information will be contained in the note. Parents who do not personally collect their child at the end of the day may wish to alert the relative/childminder, upon receipt of a text.

If the injury is deemed serious (given the child's presentation when receiving first aid treatment) then the child's teacher, or a member of staff, will inform parents verbally by telephone call at the time of the incident and not wait until the end of the day."



Reception playground

We have had confirmation that the Reception playground will be completed in October half term providing some fixed physical equipment for the children to play and learn on. Please excuse appearances whilst the builder's barriers remain until then.

Mr Bailey and Miss Pugh have asked that I inform parents that although the Reception playground can contain scooters, toys, arts and crafts which may be out still at home time, that these should not be used by older children and siblings who are collecting children from RB.



Some of the equipment is being broken and lost. Please do enforce this with your children. Mr Bailey will be monitoring this over the next few days and intervening where necessary. Thank you for your support with this.

Families First
Staffordshire County Council
2 Staffordshire Place
Tipping Street
Stafford
ST16 2DH
Email: paul.senior@staffordshire.gov.uk
Please ask for: Paul Senior

Date: 21 September 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

Changes to Penalty Notices for Absence from School

Ensuring your child has access to a good education is very important to us. A key part of this is for all children and young people to regularly attend school, as this gives each learner the best chance to achieve their full potential. In light of the recent Isle of Wight court case and the subsequent Supreme Court ruling on school absences, we wanted to clarify our position for parents where there may be the potential for any ambiguity and to also ensure we are fully compliant with legal requirements.

As a result, we have made a few changes to our previous guidance to schools, parents and carers regarding absence from school. The new guidance will come into force from **1 January 2018** and is detailed below:

Penalty Notice for leave of absence (holiday) in term time

From 1 January 2018 **any** period of unauthorised leave may result in you as a parent receiving a penalty notice fine. Your head teacher will continue to be the only person able to authorise leave in term time, but this will apply only in exceptional circumstances. Any unauthorised absence will be referred by your head teacher to the local authority.

Penalty Notice for persistent lateness

Previously a pupil had to achieve 20 unauthorised late marks before a penalty notice warning could be issued. **This has now changed to 10 marks**, and late marks do not have to be one after the other in order for the penalty notice to be issued. You are therefore encouraged where possible to ensure your child attends school on time. However, if your child is late you must inform the school of the reason(s) why, as they may be able to offer you some form of advice or support.

Period of time used to measure persistent absence and lateness

If your child has had 10 days unauthorised absence or is late 10 times over a twelve week period, you may receive a penalty warning notice and also potentially a fine. These changes have been agreed with local head teachers and have been implemented to help promote and support good attendance to school. Further details and a copy of the revised Code of Conduct for issuing Penalty Notices can be obtained from the council's website www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education.

The vast majority of children and young people in Staffordshire have an excellent record of school attendance, and we recognise the efforts of so many parents to ensure their children attend school regularly.

The Local Authority will continue to take appropriate action for absences during term time when we are notified by head teachers, both to support them in their role and to ensure local children can continue to achieve the best possible outcomes from attending local schools.

Yours faithfully

Paul Senior

Head of Education Vulnerable Learner Services 0-25