



The Bluecoat School and Nursery Unit

working in partnership with The Stamford Children's Centre

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Head Teacher – Mrs C Hines

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February Newsletter 2014

Dear Parents

I hope that you have all had a very enjoyable half-term break. I am pleased to welcome you all back to school for the start of the new term.

ParentMail



A reminder that we will be beginning to send you information via ParentMail from today. I hope that you have used your access code to register for ParentMail and that you will find this method of communication useful and convenient. If you have not yet registered and have access to e-mail at home, please do go online and register for ParentMail. If you need any assistance with this matter, please see Mrs Martin as soon as possible who will be pleased to assist.

After School Clubs

Further to my previous letter, I confirm that there will be amendments to some after school club provision this term due to staff changes. I have already written to parents of children in our choir regarding this and a separate letter is coming home today regarding dance club with Anne Desbrulais on Thursdays.



I will confirm details of all other clubs later this week which will start week commencing 3rd March 2014.

New and Exciting Curriculum Provision

Providing our children with a rich and exciting curriculum is one of our key school development priorities. I am delighted to advise that we have made arrangements for all children from Y2 to Y5 to access weekly vocal and performing arts coaching with effect from this week. This arrangement has been made with a company called Premier Performing Arts and our coach this term is Craig Swaggers. The sessions begin this week and the staff and children are very excited about this new learning opportunity. Our Y6 class are very busy this term preparing for their SATS in May but they will have an opportunity to access this new provision later in the year.



Forthcoming Events for Your Diaries

We have some exciting events planned for this term and I am pleased to be able to confirm the following dates for you so far. Please put the dates in your diaries and further details regarding each event will follow by separate letter in the near future:

- Shrove Tuesday – Pancake races – Tuesday 4th March 2014 at 2.30pm



WORLD BOOK DAY fest! A BIG, HAPPY, BOOKY CELEBRATION OF READING

- World Book Day Celebrations – Monday 10th to Friday 15th March 2014
- Book Character Dressing Up Parade – Thursday 13th March at 9am
- Open Event Including Young Voices Concert and Opening of Y3/4 Gallery Exhibition – Thursday 27th March 2014 6pm to 8pm



- Decorated Easter Egg Competition – Judging Day Thursday 3rd April 2014



- End of term Easter Fayre, Disco and Easter Bonnet Parade – Thursday 3rd April 2014 between 6pm and 8pm

Easter Disco!



Our New School Website – Coming Soon!

We have been developing a new and exciting school website during the last few months. This will be launched in the very near future and full details of how visit and enjoy our new website will be sent to you soon. All classes will be running sections on the website with their teachers and other staff. These will enable you to enjoy sharing details of your children's learning and school experiences with them on a regular basis. It will also be a great opportunity for us to promote and celebrate our fantastic school together and we are all very excited about this latest development!



Absence From School for Holiday Purpose

May I politely remind you again about the important change in the school attendance law which came into effect from the 1st September 2013 for all schools nationally. All schools are now only able to authorise any requests for absence for holiday purposes in 'exceptional circumstances'. These exceptional circumstances are likely to be very rare and will **not include affordability reasons**.

All family holidays should therefore be arranged during school closure periods and you all have copies of this year's term dates to support you to make your arrangements during school holidays.

If despite the above guidance, parents do wish to request permission for their child/children to be absent from school for holiday purposes, any such requests should be put in writing to me in the first instance. Letters should clearly explain the nature of the exceptional circumstances and parents should wait for the outcome **before** making any confirmed holiday arrangements.



Arriving at School on Time

I am pleased to advise you most children arrive at school on time and ready for the bell at 8.40am. There are however, a few children who continue to arrive at school late on a regular basis and I would like to remind you of our expectation and requirement that all children are at school on time each day. Late arrivals are recorded as absence for the morning session and I will therefore be contacting parents where this continues to be an issue within the next few days agree a plan to improve matters.

Improving our whole school attendance and ensuring that all children arrive at school on time, remains a very important school and parent partnership responsibility and I would greatly appreciate your co-operation with this very important matter.

Y3/4 Trip to Tallington Lakes – Friday 14th March 2014

We are currently making arrangements for Y3/4 to enjoy an exciting outdoor adventure trip to Tallington Lakes on Friday 14th March 2014 as part of their Creative Curriculum. The children will enjoy a fantastic day of outdoor activities. Afterwards, they will be planning and creating our next Gallery Exhibition for the main entrance of the school in response to their experiences. The children in these classes will bring home a separate letter about this trip later this week.



We have an exciting term ahead and I look forward to working in partnership with you during the coming term.

Kind regards

Carol Hines
Headteacher