



Stanbridge Lower School

Newsletter No 1

5th September 08

Dear Parents/Guardian

Welcome back to the start of another school year. The children have been telling us all about their holidays and their adventures. They have all been very busy in one way or another. I hope you also had a little time to rest whilst enjoying your summer break.

The teachers and I have met and set dates for all significant school events across the year and these are published below.

"Meet the Teacher" Sessions

These sessions are used for the teachers to talk to you about homework, reading, P.E, any planned outings, requests for help etc. Mrs Date will be talking specifically about sets, tracking of achievements and assessments during her meeting. This also gives you the chance to ask any general questions that you may have, and to build that first point of contact/communication with your child's class teacher. The children will also be present at these meetings.

The sessions have been organized as follows:

Mrs Bradley and Chestnut: Tuesday 16th September, 3.00pm

Mrs Kateley/Mrs Hince and Oak: Tuesday 16th September, 3.00pm

Mr Wilkins and Miss Graham with Pine: Friday 19th September, 3.00pm

Mrs Date and Cherry Class (Full time Rec and Yr 1): Monday 15th September, 3.00pm

Mrs Patterson will make individual arrangements with the P/T Parents and Acorn Class

Please speak to your class teacher if you are unable to attend for any reason.

Clubs At Stanbridge

Gardening Club: Mrs Benesch and Mrs Knapp will be starting gardening club soon from 3.30pm - 4.15pm. There are a few places available for new gardeners. If your child would like to join please speak to Mrs Benesch or Mrs Knapp. The places will be allocated on a first come basis.

Story Club: This term story club will take place on Friday at lunchtimes. Mrs Conti will advise us when this is due to start and I will then inform the children during assembly.

Sports Clubs: Mr Wilkins is in the process of organizing these and he will inform you as soon as arrangements have been finalized.

Homework - Take Away Tasks

Across the year we will be updating our homework systems for spelling. We will also be adding in a very exciting and uplifting homework experience that will enable you as parents and the children to work together on tasks. These tasks will be designed to deepen children's learning experiences, encourage them to do research at home, whilst also encourage family learning. Each term the children will be invited to take part in a task at home which will be set by the class teachers and link directly to their topic. For example If the topic is World War 2, then the children might be asked to make an Anderson Shelter or a Ration Card. If the topic is Houses and Homes, then the children might be asked to make a home for the future or design a wall paper etc. We have called these our "Take Away" Tasks.

As parents you can get involved with these projects as much or as little as you like, but from past experiences parents can't help but get involved, as tasks not only inspire the children, but inspire you too. Once the tasks are completed the children will bring them into school to present to their class.

Teachers will send their tasks home, with relevant details soon. We hope you enjoy getting further involved in your child's learning and have fun, quality experiences helping your children to deepen their understanding of topics. I look forward to seeing the completed tasks for this term.

Forthcoming Events

Listed below are the key dates for various meetings, events and activities planned so far for the academic year 08/09. As other events and activities are planned the dates and details will be shared with you as soon as possible.

15 th September	Mrs Date - Meet the Teacher, 3pm
16 th September	Mrs Bradley - Meet the Teacher, 3pm Mrs Kateley/Mrs Hince - Meet the Teacher, 3pm
19 th September	Mr Wilkins/Miss Graham - Meet the Teacher, 3pm
10 th October	Harvest Festival, 2.30pm
14 th October	Individual and Family Photographs
17 th October	Celebration Assembly, 9.15am
20 th October	Parent Consultations, 3.30 - 5pm
21 st October	Parent Consultations, 6.00 - 9pm
3 rd November	INSET Day
17 th November	KS2 trip to Bletchley Park
10 th December	Christmas Production Performance: parents and younger children
11 th December	Christmas Production Performance: parents, friends and community
16 th December	Christmas Parties
To be Confirmed	End of Term Service in Church
19 th December	Last Day of Term
5 th January	First Day of Term
31 st January	PTFA Magic Show - fundraising event
13 th February	Celebration Assembly, 9.15am
20 th March	Mother's Day Tea Party
23 rd March	Parent Consultations, 3.30 - 5pm
24 th March	Parent Consultations, 6.00 - 9pm
To be Confirmed	End of Term Service in Church
3 rd April	Last Day of Term
20 th April	INSET Day
21 st April	First Day of Term
22 nd May	Celebration Assembly, 9.15am
22 nd May	Class and Team Photographs
To be Confirmed	Kingswood Residential Field Trip for Yr $\frac{3}{4}$
23 rd June	Sports Day, 2pm
24 th June	Reserve Sports Day
8 th July	New Class Lists and Reports Sent Home
10 th July	Open Afternoon and Art Exhibition, 2.30pm
12 th July	Swimming Party Yr4
15 th July	Leaver's Assembly and Helper's Tea Party, 2pm
To be Confirmed	End of Term Service in Church
17 th July	Last Day of Term

Parent Governor Elections

The Governing Body currently has one parent governor vacancy, so we are therefore asking for nominations or volunteers by Friday 26th September. In the event of more than one name being put forward, elections will take place in the following week. As we have new parents who have children who have just entered Stanbridge I thought it would be helpful to provide you with some information about the role of Parent Governor.

Who can be a Parent Governor?

A parent governor must be the parent of a pupil on the school roll at the time of the election, you would not need to stand down if your child leaves school during your four year period of office.

What is involved?

As a member of the Governing Body you are to"carry out your functions with the aim of taking a largely strategic role in the running of the school", and"The Governing Body should act as a Critical friend to the Headteacher by providing advice and support". In a simplistic sense the Governing Body supports the school in its mission to provide every child in the school with the best possible start in their education and life.

What sort of commitment does this mean?

All governors are required to attend a meeting of the full governing body and these usually occur once a term. There are committees of small groups of individual governors, including Premises, Curriculum and Monitoring, Finance, Performance Management and Staffing, each of these meet between two and three times in an academic year. Meetings vary in terms of when they are scheduled: a consensus is taken to decide what time in a day is best for the members on that committee to meet.

Will I get any training?

All governors are immediately issued with a green file called "A Guide to the Law for School Governors" You will have access to a 24hr helpline, but also the Local Authority run a range of courses each year on such topics as a general introduction for new governors, to other more specific aspects such as the details of school budget setting and Performance Management.

If you are interested please apply to become a parent governor by completing the Nomination Form overleaf and returning it to the school office by Friday 26th September. If you do have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me, or approach one of the school's current governors. We would be only too pleased to help.

Children with Long Hair

We would like to ask parents to tie children's long hair back each day. This helps the children to do their work better, as the hair is not continually falling into their work, reduces the risk of cross infection eg headlice and also stops hair unintentionally whipping round into the face of other children working. As always we appreciate your co-operation with this.

Holidays in Term Time

In light of our OFSTED report which highlighted the need to work with families who take their children out of school during term time on holidays, it seems the right time of year to remind parents that we actively discourage holidays to be taken in term time. Pupils may only be granted leave of absence from school to enable him/her to go away on holiday where:

- An application has been made in advance to the school by a parent with whom the pupil normally resides and
- The school considers that leave of absence should be granted due to the special circumstances relating to the application.

DfES guidance states that schools are not obliged to grant leave for holidays in term time and applications should be carefully considered on their merits taking into account the school's responsibility for ensuring continuity of learning. Holidays which are taken for the following reasons are not classed as special circumstances

- Availability of cheap holidays
- Availability of desired accommodation
- Poor weather experienced in school holiday periods
- Overlap with beginning or end of term.

We hope that the above raises your awareness about holidays in term time and you continue to work with us to ensure your child receives their maximum entitlement to education across the year.

Yours sincerely

R J WATERS

Nomination/Volunteer as Parent Governor
Reply Slip

Name:

Address:

Telephone No:

Child's Name:

Reasons for Applying: