



Newsletter No.1

Friday 2 September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our new pupils and their families to our school community.

We also welcome several new members of staff to the school. Miss Bateson will be working with us as an LSA in the Acorn class and Mrs Heath will be working in the kitchen as our new assistant cook.

We are also delighted to be working with Mr Golding and Mr Robson from Super Star Sports who will be providing PE teaching throughout the school and also running some after school clubs. Finally, we also welcome Mr Agdomar from A-Star Music who will be teaching music throughout the school.

It's been a busy summer with Phase 1 of our internal building work. Today Oak class moved into their brand new classroom! Phase 2, to build the new staffroom will begin later this term.

We are already planning a very exciting year and look forward to sharing some of our plans with you in due course!

COMMUNICATION

Don't forget you can receive our tweets by following [@westhorndonprim](#) on [Twitter](#). You can also download the West Horndon Primary App for some of our key information and to access the latest tweets.

We hope to also get 100% of parents signed up to Class Dojo. This will provide a really great way to share news and information with you about the learning in your child's class.

We will continue to use our website and its link to the eSchools platform as our main hub for information. We encourage parents to check both regularly. Next week we will send details of the clubs on offer this term and we will update the website calendar with key events for the year.

We have sent this newsletter by hard copy and eSchools. eSchools is by far our preferred method of communicating with you. It saves us money which we can better spend on resources to support your child's learning. Please contact Mrs. Curtis in the school office **if you require a hard copy of letters in future.**

LOOKING FORWARD

It's hard to follow such an exciting summer term, but we already have some exciting events planned! The first two dates for your diary are:

- ✗ Thursday 15th September – *Super Star Sports Day* – (a whole day of sporting, health and wellbeing based activities)
- ✗ Monday 19th September - *International Speak Like a Pirate Day* – (come dressed as a pirate!)

We are also looking forward to welcoming two regular visitors to our school. Next Thursday and Friday Russel Prue the school radio expert will be here working with children and on the 19th & 20th we will be joined by Chris Connaughton our Writer in Residence.

REQUESTS FOR ABSENCE

I would like to remind parents that following DFE guidelines I am no longer able to authorise family holidays or absence from school unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. In any case no absence will be authorised for more than 5 days in any academic year. Additionally no absence will be considered unless the child's attendance is above 95%. Other factors such as your child's progress and achievement will also be considered and may be a limiting factor.

If you apply for absence under exceptional circumstances then this must be made in writing to the headteacher. The school will be proactively seeking penalty notices for absence taken without authorisation.

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

Each Thursday we hold our special Achievements Assembly. It is our way of valuing the varied sporting, artistic and other achievements of our pupils outside school. If, for example, your child wins a trophy they can hand it into the office and we will share it with the whole school in assembly and your child will be invited to say a little about what they had to do.

On behalf of all of the staff, we look forward to working in partnership with you this year.

Yours sincerely

Matt O'Grady, Headteacher

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