

## NEWSLETTER - 23 SEPTEMBER 2015



The children have made a great start to the year and are working really hard. It has been lovely to see how the new reception children have settled in - thank you for all your support at home. Thanks also to all the children who are coming into school on their own in the mornings - please keep encouraging this to happen as it makes the start to the day much calmer for everyone.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend welcome meetings and the volunteers meeting. We have lots more to look forward to in school before half term, including breakfast morning, and book week. Finally, thank you for your excellent response last week when we had to send the children home at short notice due to having no water supply and also for your continued support during the current collaboration between Meadow Lane and College House Junior School. (Please see attached further information regarding the collaboration).

**Universal Free School Meals** It has been great to see so many children staying for a school meal, especially the reception children - we like to encourage every child in school to take advantage of a free hot meal! We are having a 'taster day' so that children who normally stay for a packed lunch can try a school dinner, therefore we are asking that **ALL** children stay for a school meal next **Thursday 1 October 2015**. If this causes a problem for you please call in at the office.

The school meal on this day will be:  
Sausage & Gravy (Vegetarian Option available),  
Mashed Potato, Yorkshire Pudding, Seasonal Vegetables  
Ice Cream.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS IF YOU THINK YOU MAY BE ENTITLED **DUE TO YOUR INCOME**, AS THIS WILL AFFECT OUR BUDGET AND WILL MEAN YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE SCHOOL TRIPS AND OTHER SUPPORT WITH SCHOOL EVENTS ETC. Please call into the school office if you want any further information.

**Pupil Premium Funding** You may be aware from press coverage that schools who have children attending that have been adopted from care from January 1st, 2006 and onwards in the UK, will be eligible for Pupil Premium Funding. This funding is put into the school budget to enable the school to achieve the best outcomes for your children. Children who left care under a Residence Order on or after 14 October 1991, and those that left care under a Special Guardianship Order on or after December 30th 2005 are also eligible. You may already have informed the school that your child is adopted, but, if you have not - and of course you are fully entitled not to do so - you may wish to consider whether you would now like to do so since additional support will be possible. This may be in the form of training on attachment issues for teachers and support staff, tailored support in certain circumstances, or additional whole class interventions that would not be possible without this funding.

Continued overleaf.....

To benefit from Pupil Premium, please contact the school as soon as possible as the school must have this information for the census. Only if your child is recorded as being adopted and eligible or fulfils the other criteria regarding Residential Orders or Special Guardianship Orders, will the funding be given in April for the following calendar year.

We understand this is a sensitive issue and assure you we will be discreet and treat the information sensitively. If you do not wish us to do so, we will not take a copy of the adoption order; merely record the viewing of it. This will be done confidentially. If you are happy to advise us that your child is adopted please contact Mrs Colton in the main school office to arrange a time to come in with the Adoption Certificate. **If you have already informed us you do not need to let us know again.**

**Beekeeper** - Staff from the Beekeeper pub are coming into school this Thursday 24 September to decorate cakes with some of the children. The Beekeeper would also like to invite parents/carers to a Macmillan coffee morning they are holding on Friday 25 September from 9 am - 12.00 noon in the Beekeeper. It would be great if you could support them in this.

**Harvest Festival** - We will be holding a small celebration for Harvest on Friday 16 October 2015, we are hoping to hold this jointly with College House Junior School in their hall. It will be for children and staff only due to a lack of space. As part of our Harvest Celebration, we would be very grateful if you could send in any donations of tins and fresh produce on the morning of Friday 16 October, which we will then donate to a local women's refuge and a local food bank to support families in difficulty. Thank you for your support.

**School Nurse Drop-In Session** - The School Nurse will be in school on Friday 16 October 2015 from 9.00 am to 10.30 am. This is an opportunity for parents to call in and see the School Nurse with any concerns, issues, worries or support you may need regarding your child. There are no appointments just call in and wait if necessary.

**Safety on the Playground** - Can I remind everyone that the children should not be riding their bikes or scooters on the playground at the start and end of the school day. We had a minor accident last week when a child collided with a parent and because we have so many younger siblings on the playground we need to make sure everyone is safe. Thank you.

**Homework/curriculum information** Please remember to check the website for the latest curriculum newsletters (see Class Pages). This half term's homework booklets are also on the website for you to download if you want to complete them with your child. Last term we only had approximately 20 children across the school who accessed the booklets. We will continue to provide them this term but will cease the service if the uptake does not improve. Don't forget to read regularly and practice your child's spellings as this is vital to ensure that your child achieves well in school.

**Attendance and punctuality** - I would like to remind parents about school attendance and the implications of taking your child out of school for a holiday during term time. Information from the Education Welfare Service shows that a two week absence from school means that your child will miss up to 50 hours of learning, which teachers are unable to repeat. Research suggests that just 17 days of absence from school could lead to a drop in GCSE grades at secondary level. The law has changed with regard to term time holidays. We are no longer allowed to authorise any holiday requests in term time unless in exceptional circumstances. A written application for any absences needs to be handed in for approval. Taking a holiday in term time could result in court action and a possible fine.

*Information from the Education Welfare Service about how school attendance can affect your child's future progress:-*

Above 97%	Above 97%. Less than 6 days absence a year: Excellent attendance! Pupils with this attendance should achieve the best grades they can, leading to the best possible start in their secondary education.
95%	95%. Less than 10 days absence in a year: Pupils with this attendance are likely to achieve their target grades and will be well prepared for starting secondary education.
90%	90%. 19 days absence over the year: Pupils with this attendance are missing a month of school per year and may fall behind in Maths and Literacy; it will be difficult for them to achieve their best.
85%	85%. 29 days absence in a year: These pupils are missing 6 weeks of school a year, it will be very difficult for them to keep up and achieve their best.
80%	80%. Pupils with this attendance are missing a day for every week of school. It will be almost impossible to keep up with work. Parents of pupils with this level of attendance could be issued with a Penalty Notice.

If you wish to discuss any issues regarding your child's attendance please contact the class teacher in the first instance. It is also vital that your child is at school on time. The doors open at 8.50am and the children should be in class ready to learn by 9am. In the older classes the children will often come in to do some work e.g. spellings, number problems, etc. Please also ensure that your child is picked up on time (3.20pm).

Continued overleaf.....

**FUTURE DIARY DATES** - A timetable of events is given below for this term. Further details (including times) will be sent nearer the actual date of the event which will involve all classes (unless stated otherwise). Following this initial newsletter any additions or alterations from the previous newsletters are shown in *bold and italic*.

DATE	EVENT	Details/Letter already sent (if applicable)
Wed 23 Sep	First Lace Making Session (Yr 2's only)	✓
Wed 23 Sep	First Mad Science After School Club (Yr 1/Yr 2's only)	✓
<b><i>Thurs 24 Sep</i></b>	<b><i>First Choir After School Club (Y2's)</i></b>	✓
Fri 25 Sep	Phonics Meeting for Yr 1/Yr 2 Parents - 9.00 am in the Hall	✓
Tue 29 Sep	Whole School Coffee Morning - 8.50 am-9.45am - in the Hall	✓
<b><i>Thur 1 Oct</i></b>	<b><i>School Meal 'Taster' Day all children</i></b>	<b><i>See above</i></b>
Fri 2 Oct	Phonics Meeting for Reception Parents- 9.00 am in the Hall	✓
5 <sup>th</sup> - 9th Oct	Book Fayre Week	
Tue 13 Oct	Oral Health Session - Reception children	
Fri 16 Oct	Harvest Festival am	See above
<b><i>Fri 16 Oct</i></b>	<b><i>School Nurse Drop-in-Session - 9.00 - 10.30 am</i></b> <b><i>(Please note change of date previously 1<sup>st</sup> Oct)</i></b>	See above
19-22 Oct	Healthy Living Week	
Fri 23 Oct	School Closed for Inset Day	✓
26-30 Oct	School Closed for Half Term holiday	✓
Tue 3 Nov & Wed 4 Nov	Parents Evenings	
Thur 12 Nov	Reception visit to Greens Mill in Sneinton	
Tue 24 Nov	Yr 1 & Yr 2 Flu Immunisation	
December	Many Christmas events- dates to be confirmed asap	
Fri 18 Dec	Final day in school - break up for Christmas holidays	✓