

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wednesday 25th January 2017

Attendance

Congratulations to Year 1 who had 99% attendance last week. They get to have "Cuddles" the bear in class with them all week. Y1 - 99%, Y3 - 97.3%, Y6 - 96.9%, Y2 - 96.4%, R - 95.2%, Y4 - 90.7%, Y5 - 81.9%, N - AM - 76.2%, N - PM - 60%.

'Readathon'

This term we will be taking part in a national 'Readathon' with an emphasis on 'Reading for Pleasure'.

Each child can choose whatever they wish to read from comics to classics, books to blogs. They will then ask family and friends to sponsor them per book, per page or per 10 minutes. Money raised will go towards helping children in hospital by buying much needed books or by inviting storytellers to visit them. As an added bonus our school will also receive 20% of the total raised.

Your child will be provided with a sponsor card and a book mark. All money will need to have been collected by Monday 27th March.

Please encourage your child to develop a lifelong love of reading and encourage them to participate. For more information please visit readathon.org.

Times Tables

It is imperative that all children learn their times tables, the curriculum states that by Year 4 all children should know all their times tables from 2 to 12, in order, mixed up and as divisible facts. To help we have purchased "TT Rockstars", which is a programme that all children can use at home. All children have been given their user names and passwords. We would be grateful if your child could use this at home and practice.

PFA Meeting

We are having a PFA meeting tomorrow, Thursday 26th January at 09.00am. If you would like to learn more about the PFA or offer your support in any way, please come along. The Christmas fair will be discussed and PFA will also be planning future events. Refreshments will be provided. Everyone is welcome to attend, even if you haven't been before.

Christmas Performances

Sadly we will no longer be continuing with an evening performance due to the following reasons:

1. Some children were not picked up early so staff could not leave school on the evening of the performance.
2. Some children came into school at the usual time so staff had to be here, despite them also being given a later start time in the morning. This causes our own staff to have their own childcare issues and means that staff are working far more than they are required to do so. They are also supposed to get an hour at the end of the day and the following morning to allow for some of the time back they spend on the evening performance, which they are not getting.

3. Some children are not brought back to perform in the evening performance causing disruption to the plays themselves.
4. Some children are not picked up on time after the evening performance meaning staff have to stay even later trying to track down parents for these children.
5. Many neighbours complain due to the thoughtless and selfish parking by some parents who park across driveways, on the pavement or in other unsuitable inconvenient places.
6. There are complaints every year regarding the number of tickets available - which we cannot do anything about due to the size of the school hall.
7. Despite school making it quite clear to parents we do not have crèche facilities during the evening performances some parents still try to bring babies and toddlers and then create an unpleasant and unnecessary fuss when they are not allowed into the hall - causing them upset, the staff they are incredibly nasty to and the children.
8. There have been a number of abusive parents to staff - so much so that solicitors letters were sent warning these people about their intolerable behaviour and how this is unacceptable on school premises. Staff are not here to be verbally abused by parents or threatened, especially when they are working in their own time. This year the police were called as a parent had threatened a member of staff.

As a result of all the issues above - all caused by a growing number of parents - the only answer is to not do the evening performance at all. Staff and children will work their normal school day and the neighbours will no long suffer either.

We will have one morning performance and two afternoon performances on the following dates:

Tuesday 12th December: 1.30pm

Wednesday 13th December: 9.30am

Thursday 14th December: 1.30pm

We are providing almost a years notice for parents to take time off work if they wish to attend.

Dates and events for Next Half Term

Please visit the school website for details <http://www.stoswaldsnetherton.com>

January 2017

26th January - Year 3 / 4 Spelling Bee at the Beacon Primary school.

27th January - Chinese lunch

30th January - Chinese New Year & Bikeability - Y 5 / 6.

31st January - Year 1 Maritime Museum visit.

February 2017

7th February - Safer Internet Day - Mentor lunch

8th February - Year 5 class assembly - 9.15 am in the school hall - all families and friends welcome.

10th February - Last day of half term

13th to 17th February - Half term

20th February - school reopens

22nd February - Year 4 class assembly 9.15 am in the school hall - all families and friends welcome.

Meet the Teacher pm

27th February - Mini - Church (N & R)

28th February - Shrove Tuesday

Yours sincerely,



Miss E. Murtagh
Headteacher