



September 2014



Sebert Wood Primary School

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Sebert Wood News

A busy start to the autumn term

We have been back for 17 school days now and it is great to see the children settled into school life, working hard and enjoying themselves. For the youngest children, being at school full time takes some getting used to but they are now used to the routines and you can see them beginning to thrive in their new learning environments. Thank you for your support in encouraging children to be independent when coming into school in the mornings, it really benefits the children and makes for a much calmer and prompt start to the school day. Even the very youngest children are super efficient at organising their belongings and getting ready for registration time.

The new Universal Infant Free School Meals system for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is going well now that everyone involved is familiar with the system. Getting all the children served in one hour is quite a logistical feat and the kitchen staff and the team of Midday Supervisors are doing a fantastic job to make this happen. The new 'Pick and Mix' school packed lunches are also proving a popular choice and add variety to the options available to the children. At the 'Class 10 Parents to Lunch' event we were joined by many parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and an older brother, who enjoyed the chance to experience a school lunch together. The feedback from this event was very positive and Class 9 will get their opportunity in October.

Golden Rules and Class Charter

Every school has rules and here at Sebert Wood we have a set of 6 golden rules which apply across the school. In assembly we have been talking about each of these rules, what they mean and how they apply to school and to life in general. Our Golden Rules are:

- *Do be kind and helpful – don't hurt people's feelings*
- *Do be honest – don't cover up the truth*
- *Do listen – don't interrupt*
- *Do be gentle – don't hurt anyone*
- *Do work hard – don't waste your own or other people's time*
- *Do look after property – don't waste or damage things*

In addition to these rules, each class has their own Class Charter which the teacher has developed with the children and which the teacher and pupils agree to follow.

PARENTMAIL

We now have 300 individual registrations to receive communications via our Parentmail system. We would like to encourage the remaining 48 to subscribe to the system as we will shortly be reducing paper copies that are available. If you have received a paper copy of this newsletter and would like to subscribe to receive it and other letters electronically, please contact the school office for details.

School Attendance

Following a letter from Suffolk County Council before the summer, which outlined a revised 'Penalty Notice Code of Conduct', some parents have asked about the way that school attendance is monitored and raised concerns about receiving a penalty notice.

A whole academic year consists of 190 school days and it is important that children access the full curriculum during this time to maximise the opportunities available to them. Absence from school during term time may hinder academic progress and the Department for Education continue to monitor the attendance levels of pupils at every school.

Here at Sebert Wood we adhere to guidance when recording absences as authorised or unauthorised. Leave during term time is only granted where an application is received in advance and if the Headteacher deems there to be exceptional circumstances to justify it. If leave is not granted but is still taken, the absence is recorded as unauthorised. Absences may also be unauthorised in other circumstances for example: where a child arrives in school after the register is closed and the reason for their lateness is not accepted by the school, or where the school is not satisfied by the reason given for a child's absence.

A Penalty Notice is a fine issued to parents by the county council where a child has had unauthorised absence from school. It has been agreed within the Bury Schools Partnership that a Penalty Notice referral to the local authority will be made **where a child has had their 8th unauthorised session within an academic year. Please note that there are 2 sessions per school day, therefore 8 sessions equates to 4 days unauthorised absence in an academic year.**

We hope this clarifies the situation.

WHAT DO PUPILS DO WHEN THEY'RE NOT AT SCHOOL?

Lucy Bluett in Class 8 has been working for the British Heart foundation this summer. She was scheduled to be in a TV and internet advert but due to a problem with music rights, there was a delay in filming which meant that Lucy was unable to take part. She has, however, recorded radio, newspaper and TV interviews. The TV appearance was a big step for Lucy and appearing on the TV at all times of day was an interesting experience for her whole family! Well done Lucy for taking on such an important role.

Ella and Theo Bennett in Class 3 went to a mini camp in the holidays, where they both passed their Pony Club E Test. They received points towards their pony and saddlery mini achievement badges. Well done both of you!

Asia Davies in Class 10 recently passed all three exams for dancing. She gained a pass in Grade 1 Modern, and merits in Primary Tap and Grade 1 Ballet. Congratulations Asia!

Maddison Phillips in Class 7 has been awarded a merit in Imperial Ballet for Grade 1. Scarlett Phillips in Class 6 has also been awarded a merit in Imperial Ballet Primary Grade. Both girls dance with Dancing With Attitude Dance School. Scarlett has also gained her Swimming Teachers Association 7 swimming award from Moreton Hall Health Club. Well done to both talented sisters!

KEY DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM

October 2014

Wed 8 Harvest Service for parents at Church (9.30 KS1 & 10.30 KS2)

PM – KS1 Harvest Festival activities in class with parents (Details to follow)

Thurs 9 Harvest themed school lunch

Wed 15 Individual photos

Thurs 16 Class 9 – Bring someone to lunch
5.00 – 7.30 - Parents meetings, all classes (letter to follow)

Mon 20 3.45 – 6.15 - Parents meetings, all classes (letter to follow)

Fri 24 Staff training Day (NO SCHOOL FOR PUPILS)

HALF TERM (25 October – 2 November)

November 2014

Thurs 13 Class 8 - Bring someone to lunch

KS2 Maths problem solving with parents

Fri 14 CHILDREN IN NEED and Fitness Friday—Heroes themed day—details to follow

December 2014

Sun 7 Concert Band Christmas fundraiser – Christ Church Moreton Hall

Mon 8 Reception performance in school 2.15 pm

Tues 9 Reception performance in school 9.40 am

Y4 performance in school 1.40 pm

Wed 10 Y2 performance at church 9.40 am

Y1 performance in school 1.40 pm

Y4 evening performance in school 7.00pm

Thurs 11 Y1 performance in school 9.40 am

Y3 performance in school 1.40 pm

Fri 12 Y3 performance in school 9.40 am

Tues 16 Christmas Lunch

Fri 19 Last day of term

CHRISTMAS HOLDS 20 December – 4 January

Staff training day 5 January (pupils return to school Tuesday 6

GENERAL INFORMATION

PARKING IN THE SCHOOL CAR PARK—we have very limited space in the school car park. Please note that the school car park is for staff and official visitors only.

Uniform - only black shoes should be worn to school. The cross trainer type black shoes are permitted but they should be fully black. Other types of trainers are not permitted. Socks should be grey, black or white. Thank you.

Individual photos—Wednesday 15 October - Individual photographs will be taken during the school day along with siblings (Nursery—Year 4). Bookings for family group photos can be made at the school office for between 3.30 and 4.30 .

Pick and Mix—if your child chooses to have a Pick and Mix packed lunch they can select from a range of fillings with or without butter as and when they are served. Unfortunately we are not able to take pre orders in advance for details such as this. Thank you.

SILVER AWARDS

Our Junior Road Safety Officers were awarded a silver certificate at the end of last term by Suffolk County Council for all their hard work in helping to improve road safety at school.

The school also received a Bury in Bloom Silver Award. On Tuesday night Mrs Reynolds and Mrs Matthews attended the Bury in Bloom presentation at the Apex along with Thomas Southwood and his dad and Ava Hooper and her mum. The children did a super job of representing the school, they went up onto the stage and collected our silver award and £15 worth of gardening vouchers. They showed the award to everyone in assembly on Friday.

Congratulations to all those involved in these activities and events.

FRIENDS OF SEBERT WOOD SCHOOL

At the Annual General Meeting of FOSWS changes to the committee membership are often made. At this years meeting Helen Edgar stood down as Chairperson, Juliet Woods as Treasurer and Debbie Campbell as Secretary. They have done a fantastic job over the years for FOSWS and our sincere thanks go to them for the time and commitment they have shown the school. We are fortunate that Debbie Campbell has been elected as the new Chairperson, with Helen Edgar supporting her as Vice Chair, Jocelyn Clarke has been elected as Secretary and Jane Attwell as Treasurer. Our thanks to them for agreeing to take on these essential roles and enabling the work of FOSWS to continue. Look out for details from FOSWS about events they are planning.

Harvest

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Harvest Festival services which take place on Wednesday 8 October at Christ Church Moreton Hall. As part of our harvest celebrations we are also collecting food for the Bury St Edmunds Food Bank, run by the Gatehouse organisation, who distribute the food to local people in need, such as pensioners and the homeless. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause we would really appreciate non perishable food items. You can take the food directly to Christchurch, bring it to school or take it directly with you to the Church when you attend the service on 8 October. Please note that the church is not always open. If you bring the items to school, please hand them in to the class teacher. Please also ensure that the food has a 'best before' date of a minimum 6 months. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

On the following day (Thursday 9 October) we have a Harvest themed lunch. If you would like your child to have this school lunch please ask your child to request a school lunch on the day in the usual way—there is no need to book in advance.

The last word.....Have a great weekend.....

Pete Dewhurst and everyone at Sebert Wood Primary School!