

Newsletter - September 2018

APOLOGIES

Over the summer break, Capita have upgraded SIMS Agora but unfortunately there is a bug in their system.

We will inform you as soon as the problem has been rectified and we thank you for your anticipated understanding with this.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

We have already got some of our after school clubs up and running this week but there will be more opportunities this half term. Some children have requested clubs such as dancing, cheerleading and yoga which Mr Cassidy is awaiting responses from, from external agencies. Clubs like this can run but there would be a cost involved. Further information to follow.



HOUSE TEAMS

Our newly introduced House system is already having a positive impact on the children who are working hard to achieve points for their team. We have placed siblings in the same teams and all the staff (apart from Mrs Smith) have been allocated to a team. The teams are all Sheffield based teams that were suggested by Mr Cassidy's class last year and these team names received the majority of votes. The teams are: Sheffield Eagles, Sheffield Steelers, Sheffield Tigers and Sheffield Sharks. The Y6 children have had the opportunity to nominate themselves to be a House Captain and a boy and girl house captain will be chosen this week. There will also be half-termly House Team meetings and a range of in-school competitions.



NEW CURRICULUM LAUNCH

This year we will be planning new Learning Challenges in response to pupil, parent and staff voice. Our key curriculum drivers are initiative, opportunities, diversity and environment which are going to be threaded through all of our teaching and learning.

We want our children to understand what jobs and careers are available to them in the future and what skills and attributes they will need. To support this we would like lots of visitors and experts in school to share their knowledge and experiences and develop pupils' understanding.

If you have any contacts, or are willing to visit any classes to share your field of work/particular expertise/culture/religion/ environmental links please contact your child's class teacher/Mr Clayton (curriculum lead) or one of our members of the Senior Leadership Team as we would love to get you involved.

The focus for our first Learning Challenge is History, with each year group developing their Historian skills over a full term to cover a range of historical periods. If you have any artefacts or Historian contacts please do let us know!



This year we will be working with our Crucible Co-operative Trust Schools to further develop our collaborative work.



One of the key pieces of work will be to develop the role of subject leaders and to improve the teaching and learning of reading.

REMINDERS

As it is the start of a new academic year we would just like to take the opportunity to remind you of a few things that will support the smooth running of the school and reduce any potential problems in classrooms.



We are a healthy school and therefore we only allow water in bottles at play and lunch times and play time snacks need to be fruit.

Please ensure that all school uniform, and PE kits, are clearly labelled with your child's name. I have been shocked by the quantity of unclaimed lost property, including expensive coats and jackets, over the last year.

In the classroom we provide children with all the materials they need to complete their learning therefore pencil cases are not needed. Can we also ask that small toys, jewellery and other stationary items are left at home to avoid loss or damage.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

I hope that you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable Summer break and that you managed to enjoy some of the warm weather.

As you may have seen, there have been some improvements made to the school over the Summer. We have had a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) developed on the Key Stage 2 playground which will greatly improve our PE and Games lessons and is already proving to be a huge success with the children at play times. The Year 5 classrooms have been painted and have had new carpets laid as have the Reception classrooms. We have also had new blinds fitted in the hall.

We now have a new leadership team in place which includes Mrs Roddis (Deputy Headteacher, SENCO & Assessment leader), Mr Clayton (Lead Practitioner and Curriculum Leader) Mrs Burkinshaw (Assistant Headteacher for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1) and Mr Young (Assistant Headteacher for Key Stage 2 and Computing Leader). We are aiming to develop a distributed leadership model so if you have any queries or concerns please ring or speak to your child's class teacher initially and then either Mrs Burkinshaw or Mr Young, depending on which year group your child is in.

In response to parent feedback we will be offering further workshops for parents this year. We will be running more Handwriting and reading workshops to enable parents who could not attend in the Summer term an opportunity to learn more about our new Handwriting scheme and how to support your child at home with reading.

We will also be having some informal coffee mornings for parents to speak to myself and Mrs Roddis and have the opportunity to meet other parents. Mrs Diskin, our new Maths leader, will also be running some Maths workshops to share the methods we use to teach children in school. As this was an area that parents felt they were least confident in supporting their child at home due to changes to calculation methods and strategies.

I am really looking forward to another fabulous year working with you all!

Amanda Smith