Tuesday 13 September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

**Welcome**

On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to welcome you all back to a new school year at Curbar Primary School.  We hope you had a fantastic summer break and we all look forward to sharing in an exciting new term, and school year, with you all. I know you will all join me in extending an especially warm welcome to our new reception children and new families who are joining the Curbar Community. A child starting school is an exciting time and I know they had a wonderful first week.

**School information and consent form**

You will be receiving an information and consent form for you to complete so that our records are up to date. If you feel you need to provide any further information or discuss any of the details, please do not hesitate to call the office. Please return these to school as soon as possible.

**Attendance**

The attendance for the last school year was 96.61%, which was just below our target of 97%. Although it would have been good to reach our target, we understand that some absences are necessary and the school follows the guidance from the Health Protection Agency regarding infection control. The bigger concern was around punctuality. It is important that your child is in school **on time** each day unless there is a valid reason. Please aim to have your child at school by 8.50 – 8.55am. **If** your child arrives late to school, please remember to sign them in at the school office. The gate onto the yard will be closed at 9.00am to secure the school site. Please note that the playground is not supervised by school staff before 8:50am and we cannot guarantee the safety of the children. *Please refer to the school’s ‘Attendance and Punctuality’ policy on the school’s website for further information..*

**Early Bird**

Watch out for the Early Bird (Mr Beahan) giving out early bird tickets to those children arriving before 9:00 in the morning. The tickets will be entered into a prize draw for a small prize.

**Lunches**

Our wonderful school meals are £2 per day. **Please pay in advance either on a weekly or half termly basis**. Reception and key stage 1 can continue to have free school meals. If paying by cheque please make cheques payable to Derbyshire County Council, cash needs to be in a named envelope.

**Income Based Free School Meals**

For every child who qualifies for free meals due to family income or benefit levels, our school receives the maximum funding (approximately £1300) to support your child through something called the Pupil Premium. It is only available to schools **if you apply and are eligible** for income based free school meals. With Pupil Premium funding, schools can organise extra help and support for children.

Applying for free meals is very quick and easy so if you think you may qualify for free school meals, please still take the time to apply. Even though your child might be able to have a free meal anyway, **our school needs the funding that comes from Income Based Free School Meals.** To find out if you are eligible, please go to the Council’s website at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk) and search for ‘free school meals’. You are also welcome to contact the school office on 01433630266.

**Rewards for behaviour for learning at Curbar**

Children receive many rewards at Curbar. One of the more high profile is the ‘Golden Tickets’ given out by any member of staff in the classroom or on the playground for children who demonstrate excellent behaviour. Once children receive 20 golden tickets they will receive their bronze lapel badge. They can then go on to achieve silver (40 golden tickets) and gold (60 tickets). This is part of our new behaviour policy which will soon be put on the website. This includes the ‘Curbar Code’ which was written in consultation with the children and Pupil Parliament:

**Curbar Code:**

Be ready for learning and always try our best

Care for ourselves and each other

Care for our school

There will be an assembly at the end of each half term to present the accompanying certificates along with certificates for those children who have 100% attendance (and who are always on time!).

**Shine Assembly**

A quick reminder of how our Friday ‘Shine Assembly’ works - one child from each year group will receive a ‘Shine Award’ from their teacher for demonstrating spectacular learning throughout the previous week. Secondly, nominated children from each class will receive a ‘Citizenship Award’ for being a wonderful member of the school community. The parents or carers of these award recipients are welcome to join us at 9.10am each Friday. If your child is in receipt of either of these awards, we will notify you by text the Friday before the assembly (a week’s notice). The teachers will not tell the class who has won each week so it is a surprise during assembly – you may wish to do the same! The first Shine Assembly of 2016 will take place on Friday 16 September.

**Diary Dates**

I attach diary dates for the term which cover most of the main events that are planned. However, I know that we will be adding lots more information. We will update the diary on a half termly basis to ensure you are made aware of any new events.

**Flu Immunisation**

If your child is in years 1, 2 or 3 you should have received information about flu immunisations that are being administered in school on Friday 4 November 2016. Please ensure you read the information carefully and return the consent form if you would like your child to receive the immunisation.

**Healthy Snacks**

Have a break… have a piece of fruit! We want our children to live active and healthy lifestyles whenever we can. Children in class 1 will all receive a healthy snack in the morning and don’t need to bring one from home. However, for all those other children who would like a snack from home, we ask that it is a healthy option.

**After School Clubs**

The Extra Time after school clubs will begin the week commencing 26 September and will be available for any aged children. The Wednesday club will be multi-sports and the Friday club will be fencing. A letter from Extra Time will be issued in the next week or so with further details and payment information.

**Swimming**

All of the children from Y3 – Y6 will attend swimming lessons at Bakewell this year. A letter will be sent out with further information this week. Mrs Gregory will be accompanying the children and is looking for volunteers to help from 2 – 3:30pm each Tuesday afternoon. It would be great if we had a few volunteers so they did not have to commit to helping every week. Please speak to Miss Gregory if you are interested in helping out.

**Class newsletters**

You will soon be receiving your first class newsletter that indicates what is being learnt in class over the course of this half term. It will also indicate key days for when your child should be receiving and returning homework.

**Choir**

Mrs Hartley has kindly agreed to run the school choir this term. The first session will run on Thursday 22 September from 3.30 until 4:15pm and each following Thursday unless notified. Children from Y2 – Y6 are welcome to attend. A letter with further details will be sent out shortly to those children who are interested.

**PE kit**

Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit in school for their lessons. We suggest that the kit is kept in school throughout the week.

**Pen licences**

To encourage children to reach and maintain high standards of hand writing and presentation we have decided that children will need to earn a pen license before they can use a school pen. Handwriting is explicitly taught and we hope that many children will develop fluent and legible handwriting styles and gain this lovely little license. To be awarded with a license, children will have to prove that they can write neatly in all subjects for a sustained period.



**Before school…**

We continue to try to encourage our children to become independent learners – this includes asking them to hang their coats up, sort out their belongings in a morning and be in class to begin their morning work before registration. We ask that in key stage 2, the children come in to school on their own to practice these skills. It is also a busy time for teachers who are welcoming the children into class and leading morning work. If you have a message for the class teacher, we ask that you pass it on to myself on the yard or to the office who will then forward it to the teacher. If you need to talk at greater length with the class teacher, please make an appointment at a mutually convenient time. Thank you for your support.

**Parent Survey**

Thanks to all those who responded to the parent survey. We are always eager to find ways of improving the school and constructive feedback and comments are always welcome. Please find the results below:

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| --- |
| **Parental Survey Results July 2016** |
|  | Strongly agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know | Total responses |
| My child is happy at this school | 11 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| My child feels safe at this school | 14 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| My child makes good progress at this school | 7 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 20 |
| My child is well looked after at this school | 14 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| My child is well taught at this school | 8 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 20 |
| My child receives homework appropriate for their age | 2 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 20 |
| The school ensures the pupils are well behaved | 4 | 12 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| The school deals effectively with bullying | 2 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 20 |
| The school is well led and managed | 9 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 20 |
| The school responds well to any concerns I raise | 7 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 20 |
| I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress | 7 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 20 |
| I would recommend this school to another parents | 10 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 20 |

**Website**

The school website is a useful resource for information and key dates. It is updated regularly and can be found at [www.curbarprimary.co.uk](http://www.curbarprimary.co.uk) Please remember you can also find us on Twitter (@curbarschool - if you wish to follow) and Facebook.

**Enquiries@**

Please ensure all general email communications to school go to the enquiries@curbar.derbyshire.sch.uk address. This means the school office will have an overview of all messages sent to school.

Kind regards

Mr Simon Beahan, Headteacher