Thursday 6 April 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of all the staff in school, I would like to wish you all a relaxing and fun filled Easter break. We close for Easter on Thursday 6 April. School is closed to children on Friday 7 April for staff training. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school refreshed and reenergised on Monday 24 April 2017 when doors will be open at 8.50am.

**Attendance/Punctuality**

Attendance for this half term stands at 97.16%. Attendance for the year so far is 97.26%. These are both just above our school target of 97%. Thank you to all for your efforts in ensuring the children attend school regularly and punctually. However, I am concerned about the 73 ‘lates’ we had during the last half term. Punctuality is important and being late adds up to a loss of learning. Being 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days learning lost each year. Being 15 minutes late each day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year. Please ensure your child is settled in school ready and to learn for 9am.

I will be sending out a letter after Easter clarifying the school’s position regarding term time holidays and attendance for the school year beginning 2017 – 18 just in case people are considering booking holidays during term time in the next year. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, the school cannot authorise term time holidays and it could lead to a fine being issued.

**Money, money, money…**

You may have seen a number of stories in the press around school funding. The school leaders and governors feel it is important to let you know how this may affect our school in the future. We will be sending a letter with further details after the Easter break.

**Shine Award Assembly**

As a result of the Easter holidays the first Shine Award Assembly will take place on Friday 5th May 2017.

**Red Nose Day 2017**

Thanks to all who dressed up, bought a joke book or red nose and donated money for Red Nose Day. We managed to raise a wonderful £131.50. Thank you.

**Playing Out**

Children will (hopefully!) be bringing home a draft piece of writing and some information about ‘Playing Out’ on Thursday 6 April. It gives information about how the school is involved in this exciting project led by parent and writer Angie Cottle. The letter and information is also on the school website (in the ‘Useful Letters’ area of ‘Information’) To summarise, this is what ‘Playing Out’ is about:

*Little Echoes writing project just got BIGGER!*

*This year the children’s writing project Little Echoes is part of Playing Out – a whole community project involving the children, parents, family and friends, older brothers and sisters, Nannas and Grandads… this is the chance for everyone in school and the surrounding community to write and* ***BE PUBLISHED****!*

*Workshops which are taking place* ***at The Moon Inn, Stoney Middleton on Monday evenings 6-7pm*** *– children welcome –* ***and Tuesday mornings 11am-12pm*** *for anyone who is home during the daytime****, starting on 24th April and running throughout May.*** *The workshops will cover all aspects of writing inspired by the theme Playing Out, past and present!**There is also an opportunity for open sessions where grown-ups can come into school and share their playing out stories with the children. If you have any questions please email Angie Cottle at* *playingout2017@outlook.com*

**Sainsbury’s Active Kids 2017 – Eat well, move well, live well**

We are still collecting Active Kids vouchers in school. A collection box is available under the PTFA notice board in school. We will be collecting until 2 May 2017.

**Citizen of the Term**

Well done to our ‘Citizens of the term’ as voted for by their classmates. In class 1 – Ted, Isobel and Isabella; class 2 – Rory and Poppy S; class 3 – Shea and Iona. Congratulations to all!

**PTFA Easter Egg hunt**

Thanks to the PTFA for organising the Easter Egg hunt and providing the delicious chocolate bunnies!

**Year 2 and Year 6 SATs**

Thanks to all those who were able to attend this week’s parent meetings. If you were not able to join us, then information about the year 2 and year 6 SATs is available on the class pages on the school website. Your child should have also brought home some information that was issued at the meeting. Please contact the office if you have not received this and we can provide you with a copy. Both year 2 and year 6 will be taking their SATs tests the week beginning **Monday 8 May**. Please ensure the children attend school and are punctual. If your child is unwell, please contact school as soon as possible.

**An invitation from Revd. James Croft to make an ‘Easter Garden’…**

You are invited to come and make an ‘Easter Garden’ at All Saints Church, Curbar on Easter Eve, Saturday April 15th at 4.00pm. Making Easter gardens is extremely creative and huge fun! All that you need to bring is a seed tray, although if you forget, I will bring some spare ones with me. I would also suggest that children are dressed appropriately i.e. not their Sunday best! The Easter Garden is a terrific way of visually reminding us of what Easter is really about. Come and join us and let’s celebrate together! Children must be accompanied by a parent/carer or responsible adult.

**Key dates**

We will be sending out school diary dates on our return to school following the Easter break.

**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 and can direct them to the appropriate person including teaching staff.

**Head lice**

As in every school, head lice can be persistent little blighters! With a holiday looming, it will be worth all parents checking your child’s (and your own!) hair so that all pupils can return to school free of head lice. The following link on the NHS website provides further information: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

**Lunchtime Support**

The PTFA recently sent a message requesting volunteers to help with lunchtime supervision so school staff can take children to use the MUGA more regularly. We are still looking for volunteers who can help on Monday’s or Tuesday’s during the next half term. Please sign up on the PTFA noticeboard in school if you are able to help.

**Thank you for the music…**

Thanks to Mrs Hartley who has volunteered in class 1 and class 3 this year to help support the teaching of music and also for running the after school choir each Thursday. Unfortunately, Mrs Hartley is unable to commit her time to school after Easter. On behalf of the school, I would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication in supporting the children in developing their musical aptitudes and all round enjoyment of music. If there is anyone out there who would like to run the school choir, then please contact school.

Kind regards

Simon Beahan, Headteacher