Tuesday 21 February 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school. We hope you had a happy and relaxing half term break.

**Congratulations to Curbar staff and the children…**

Getting official looking letters can often be a daunting prospect for any headteacher. However, I want to share the content of the letter I received yesterday morning as, I am sure you will agree, it is something to be exceptionally proud of.

*Dear Mr Beahan*

*I would like to congratulate you, your staff and pupils for the very high standard that pupils in your school have achieved in mathematics in the 2016 key stage 2 assessments.*

*Your school’s results, as published on 15 December, show that 100 per cent of your pupils reached or exceeded the expected standard in mathematics at the end of key stage 2. This means that your school is in the top 2% of primary schools in England for attainment in mathematics.*

*We want to ensure that every child has the necessary fluency in mathematics to prepare them for a successful secondary education and beyond, and your school has provided this to all of your pupils.*

*Thank you for your hard work and professionalism in producing such high standards and congratulations to you and your staff for all you have achieved.*

*With best wishes.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Nick Gibb MP*

*Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP*

*Minister of State for School Standards*

We were proud of all of our end of KS2 results (see table below that compares children from Curbar working at or exceeding expected standard with national) especially as these were new tests based on a new curriculum. You can explore our school’s data and information in more detail and compare any school and college at: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/find-a-school-in-england>

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| **Working at or exceeding expected standard** | **Reading** | **Writing** | **Maths** | **SPaG**  **(Spelling, punctuation and grammar)** | **Reading, writing, maths combined** |
| **Curbar results** | 92% | 75% | 100% | 100% | 75% |
| **National results** | 66% | 74% | 70% | 72% | 53% |

**Finer Diners**

We are holding our first ever ‘Finer Diner’ event on Friday (and will continue every Friday!) We encourage courtesy, good behaviour and good manners throughout lunch times, and children who display these qualities will be chosen to be the weekly ‘Finer Diners‘ and have their lunch at the ‘top table’ on a Friday. These children will come into lunch first, have a special table and receive a small treat. Lunchtime supervisors will nominate a ‘Finer Diner’ for each year group and they will be announced at Friday’s Shine Award assembly.

**Pancake Day – Tuesday 28 February**

Come and join the PTFA at a pancake tea in /outside the playground at school pick up time. There will be pancakes with various fillings for sale; pancake races for various ages and a ‘Flipping Challenge’.

**Correction - Class 1 PE**

As we hope for some better weather, class 1 will be having their PE lessons back **at school** this term. That means that the children in class 1 will need to be picked up at the end of the day from school as normal. Apologies for any misunderstanding in the previous newsletter.

**Class 3 Sports Hall Athletics**

Well done to all of Class 3 who demonstrated exceptional skill and teamwork in the recent LMS Sports Hall Athletics competition at Graves Park in Sheffield. As ever, the children were a credit to the school in terms of their performances, behaviour and attitude. This was also noted by the event organisers who gave us the trophy for demonstrating the most ‘passion’ during the competition. Congratulations to the team!

**Curbar World Book Day**

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 3 March (a day after the official World Book day due to class 2 attending a dance festival on Thursday 2 March!) We are inviting children (and staff) to come to school dressed as a favourite book character or in book themed attire. Children may even want to bring in their favourite book! During the day, we will also be taking part in some whole school shared reading where the older children will pair up with the younger children to listen to each other read and talk about their book. And there’s more! We will be holding a book swap after school where children are invited to bring a book to (permanently!) swap. Alternatively, children can purchase a book for 50p. All proceeds will go to the Curbar PTFA. Please contact the office if you are having a clear out and would like to donate any children’s books for the event.

**Attendance/Punctuality**

Attendance for the year so far is 97.1%. This is just above our school target of 97%. Thank you to all for your efforts in ensuring the children attend school regularly and punctually. During the most recent half term we have had 51 lates. Our school target is 0. **Please remember that if your child is late and needs to enter through the main entrance, a parent/adult will need to sign them in.** If a child misses 5 minutes of learning a day, it equates to 25 minutes over a week; which equals 16.25 hours (or just under 3 days of learning) a year! It can also be a little embarrassing for a child to enter the classroom when everyone else has started their learning. Please ensure your child is punctual. Please refer to the attendance and punctuality policy on the website for further information.

**Safer Internet Day**

Thanks to all those who completed and returned the ‘Safer Internet Day’ audit.

**Update on Mr Beahan’s 2016 health drive (now into 2017!)**

I am continuing (still!) to attempt to live a healthier lifestyle and still need the support of the children at school to do likewise. They have been great at having healthier lunch boxes and snacks (no crisps or chocolate) and I would like them to continue to do so. It is also a while since an empty packet of crisps has landed at my feet so it is having an impact on the amount of litter on the playground too!

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

Please collect and donate your Active Kids vouchers to school. A collection box is available under the PTFA notice board in school. We will be collecting until 2 May 2017.

**Parents Evening**

Our spring term parent meetings are set to take place on Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 March 2017 from 15:30 – 18:00. A sign-up sheet will made be available outside each classroom in the week before the meetings. Please sign up for a 10-minute appointment time. There will also be the opportunity to look at your child’s learning.

**Training day – April 7**

School closes for children for the Easter break at the end of the day on Thursday 6 April 2017. Staff have a training day on Friday 7 April and school is closed to children. School reopens on Monday 24 April 2017.

Kind regards

Simon Beahan, Headteacher