

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wednesday 18th October 2017

Attendance

Congratulations to Year 3 & Year 2 with 100% attendance last week, I hope the classes enjoy sharing Cuddles the bear! Y3 & Y2 -100%, Y6 - 99.3%, Y4 - 98.3%, Y1 - 97.9%, Y5 - 96%, R - 92.1%, N - AM - 86.8%, N - PM - 60%.

Online Safety

We have been informed about a gaming app/ website by some of our pupils, who have raised concerns about strangers trying to talk to them on line through this site. The gaming app is called ROBLOX and looks like a LEGO game. These are the main concerns:

- There is a messaging facility as part of the game; which is open to the public. On the app there is no way to screen contacts or disable the messages. Children can block people but bearing in mind ROBLOX claim to have over 30 million users children have no way of knowing who it is they're talking to.
- It claims to be an age 13+ site but you do not need to prove your date of birth and it defaults as an older birthdate.
- The app purchasing seems not to need to validate card details and seemingly children can buy in app purchases and charge these to the mobile phone bill if playing using mobile data.

It is important to keep children safe online. If you give permission for your children to use a messaging platform ensure they do not use their real name or photograph. Use a unrelated nickname and choose an avatar to protect your identify. Also ensure that children do not share details of their location online and refrain from sharing if they are alone or if adults are out. Remember anything shared online becomes your digital foot print. Inappropriate comments can lead to serious consequences.

Please use <https://www.common sense media.org/app-reviews> which reviews apps and games to help you make an informed choice. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact school.

Poppies

As always we will be selling poppies in school and all monies raised will go to Royal British Legion. They will be on sale after half term.

School Nurse drop in Session

Our school Nurse will be holding a drop in session for parents on 13th November at 2.30pm. Please feel free to call in if you have any issues you wish to discuss with her.

RM Maths

RM Maths is a computer generated maths programme that allows children to practise their Maths skills in a computer friendly way. All children are able to access this at home , their progress through the programme is recorded and they can gain certificates as they progress. All the children have been provided their log in details in their homework books - it is vital these are kept safe and are not lost. Please have a look at RM Maths with your child at home, the children really enjoy using the programme and I am sure would love to share it with you.

IXL - English and Maths

Like RM Maths, IXL allows the children to further develop their Maths skills and their understanding in English, particularly grammar. We have invested in this programme as it also gives an explanation into how it is taught in school for Maths and the meanings of the grammar terminology for parents. The log in details for this have again been provided in your child's homework book. We will also run workshops for parents at KS1 and KS2 to show parents how to use this.

Dogs

Unfortunately we have had parents allowing their dogs to foul on the school field. Please be aware dogs are not permitted on the school premises or grounds and should not be walked on the field. Please do not bring dogs to school and carry them in your arms.

Changes to Netherton Children's Centre

As you will know there have been several cuts to council services due to funding cuts. There is currently a consultation process underway to take into account families views on the proposed changes at Netherton Children's Centre. Julie Finch (Manager at NCC) and possibly other staff members would like to speak to parents who access the Centre and support parents in the consultation process.

It is important if you use the Centre and the services it has to offer that you are involved in the consultation and 'have your say' while you can! The support given to families in the community is vital and has provided many with a safe and supportive environment to go to for help with many issues. We must make it clear to those who are listening what it is you value and what it is you need.

Please do come along to one of the proposed meetings on Tuesday 31st October at either 9.00am or 2.30pm. The meetings will be in the Family Room. Please indicate in the slip below if you intend to come to either meeting - refreshments will be provided so we need to make sure we have enough! Thank you.

Year 3/4 Parent Meeting

Year 3 and 4 have now began Accelerated Reader everyday in class. We will be running a parent session after half term on Thursday 2nd November at 3.30pm to explain the process and also model how to log in as a parent to check your child's progress. More information will follow in a letter.

Operation Christmas Child - Shoe Box Appeal

Once again this year, we are collecting shoeboxes for the charity Blythswood Care. Shoes boxes will be distributed to children in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine before Christmas. Children and families at St Oswald's have always donated generously to this appeal. Leaflets will be coming home today and the last return date for a Shoe Box if you wish to participate is Friday 03/11/2017.

Half Term Holiday

School closes for half term on Friday 20th October at 3.15PM. Please note after school clubs will operate as normal and if your child attends a club, they will need to be collected at 4.15PM. School Re-opens on Monday 30th October at 08.30 for Nursery children, 08.50 for 08.55 for KS2 children, and 09:00 for KS1 children.

Forthcoming Dates October 2017

19th October - Diwali. Football match Peter Dowd Cup 1.00pm

20th October - Year 5 Pearl of Africa Performance

Schools birthday tomorrow (21st October) - 58 Years old

23rd - 27th October- Half term

30th October- Back to school

For further dates for the rest of the year please see the school website.

Yours sincerely



Miss E Murtagh
Headteacher