

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wednesday 24th January 2018

Attendance

Year 4 had the highest attendance for last week and they get to have Cuddles the bear with them in class. Y4 - 99%, Y2 & N - AM - 98.7%, Y5 - 96.7%, Y3 - 95.9%, Y6 - 95.6%, Y1 - , 5.5%, R - 93.8%, N - PM - 64.4%.

Mrs Ford

It is with great sadness and regret that we are announcing Mrs Ford's decision to take early retirement at the end of this year.

Mrs Ford has served the school with enthusiasm, dedication and care for all of our children for over twenty years and will be a great loss to the school. She has supported many families and staff throughout her time here and won a National Award in 2009 for her sheer dedication and service to pupils with additional needs.

We will of course be planning a special service and event to wish her well as she leaves us for a more relaxing time ahead, but we simply cannot hope to replace her. I am sure you would all like to join us in wishing her well but for now we will focus on the remaining two terms ahead before we say Goodbye.

Budget Restraints

Unfortunately, our school budget is under huge strain. The government has made changes to the way schools receive their budget which will come into effect in two years and for now our school budget is frozen. This means we will not be getting any further funding but are facing ever increasing costs for everything that we pay for and are being charged for services we previously did not have to pay for before. In order to save costs we have had to cut the following for next year:

- 1.) Swimming for Year 2
- 2.) Extra music provision and music after school clubs
- 3.) Curriculum resources
- 4.) Christmas trip to Unity Theatre

All of which cost the school thousands each and we can no longer sadly afford.

In order to gain savings next term (Easter 2018) the newsletter will now only be available via email or on the school website. A hard copy of the newsletter will be available to view in the school notice boards and on display in the school foyer. If you wish to purchase a copy of the newsletter that can be arranged for you but we need to save on photocopying and paper. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you please ensure your email address is passed into the school office.

Subs

Thank you to all of those who support the schools 50p a week school subs scheme. Without this continuing we will no longer be able to afford other extras such as after school clubs run by outside agencies, school trips, visiting theatres etc.

Can I please ask that ALL parents contribute to the scheme as we may have to stop as many school trips and ultimately lose the school mini buses. Without the mini buses this will impact on swimming for years 3 -6, participation in sporting events and competitions, school trips and visits and participation in local events such as the spelling bees etc. It will also have a huge impact on the Christmas activities.

Please do keep the subs coming in, we need all the help we can get to provide for the children.

Allergy Reminder

Due to the high level of sensitivity of a numbers of our pupils, we would once again like to remind parents that no nuts or nuts based products should be put into children's packed lunches. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Times Tables

It is imperative that all children learn their times tables, the curriculum states that by Year 4 all children should know all their times tables from 2 to 12, in order, mixed up and as divisible facts. To help we have purchased "TT Rockstars", which is a programme that all children can use at home. All children have been given their user names and passwords. We would be grateful if your child could use this at home and practice. We can also see how we are performing as a school compared to other locally. Last week we were 5th in the leader board which is a huge slip as earlier this year we were first! Come on everyone lets get back up that leader board.

Dates and events for Next Half Term

Please visit the school website for details <http://www.stoswaldsnetherton.com>

January 2018

25th January - Year3 / 4 Spelling Bee Competition at Beacon Primary School

30th January - Year 3 trip to World Museum

31st January - Y4 Class Assembly - 9.15AM - school hall.

February 2018

1st February - Year 5 / 6 Spelling Bee competition

5th February - Assessment Week & Mini Church 11.15AM - all families welcome.

6th February - Stay n' Play for Reception class

7th February - Safer Internet Day, Mentor Lunch & Communion at Church 10AM - all families welcome

8th February - 1.45pm Safe Use of Internet Drop in Session

12th-16th February- Half Term

Yours sincerely



Miss E Murtagh
Headteacher

Email address for newsletter _____

Name of child _____ Class _____

Signature of parent / carer _____