

# SIR ROBERT GEFFERY'S SCHOOL – NEWSLETTER

4 January 2017 – Number 617

## CLUBS

**Clubs start next week. Please return forms by tomorrow (we have spares in the office).**

### Happy New Year and Thank you

On behalf of the school staff a huge thank you for all the cards, best wishes and gifts that were sent to us this Christmas. They are greatly appreciated.

We hope everybody feels refreshed and ready for another learning journey this term.

**Swimming Lessons – Tomorrow !!  
Years 3 and 5 begin their lessons tomorrow and for the next six weeks, so please remember to send them to school with their swimming kits and wearing tracksuit trousers and school hoodie to aid changing.**

### Music Lessons

Woodwind lessons and Orchestra will start this Friday, so please remember to bring instruments in.

All other music lessons will start next week.

### Hi-5 Netball

The first match of this year is next Monday – please return slips if not done so already.

### KS2 Theatre Trip

The KS2 visit to the pantomime takes place on Wednesday 11 January. We ask parents to come in the main door at 5.30pm and then wait for pupils inside the hall. Their bags will be left around the outside of the hall so help yourself to your child's if you are waiting. We then ask for you to leave via the fire doors to reduce congestion. Children will be travelling on two buses and will be brought to the hall to be returned!! As it is dark, we have found this is the safest way to do it. Children can bring sweets for the interval only. (Please do not send in chocolate as it melts!) School uniform and coats needed.

### Staff Training

On the INSET the staff all had chance to find out more about current good practice related to reading comprehension and the writing process.

### Uniform Shop

Just a reminder that the uniform shop will be open on Thursdays after school. Orders can be sent in and collected from School Office.

### Census Day – 19 January 2017

We receive all our funding for the KS1 dinners based on the dinners taken on two days. One of these is October and the other is 19 January. Chartwells have a special meal on that day as a celebration and incentive. It would be really helpful, even if your child does not usually have a dinner on that day and they are in Reception, Year 1 or 2 that they have one booked. It is a silly system, but if they do not take it on that day we have no funding for all the others they take. This means that we have to take money out of the school budget to cover this instead of it being given from a different pot. Last year it cost us several thousand as not everybody who had meals did sign up.

***PLEASE, PLEASE HELP BY BOOKING A DINNER ON THAT DAY, AND PASS THE MESSAGE ON AS NOT EVERYBODY READS THE NEWSLETTER***

### Maths Groups

We are reorganising into five maths groups this term following the changes in staffing. We will have a year 3, 3/4, 4/5, 5/6 and 6. Pupil review meetings and data has contributed to the make-up of these groups this term. We want children to master skills and be confident mathematicians. Until last year, this was our make-up of groups and this has always worked well for our learners.

Work will be differentiated to meet the needs of the groups and each room has at least three adults to support learning.

Mrs Jonas, who works with groups of children locally, is going to come and work in school with some small maths groups in year four once a week this term. More information next week.

## ATTENDANCE

I hope everybody will receive the data about their children's attendance next week. This is something we have to share and follow up. It is not what I went into teaching to do but it has become part of the role nowadays.

Every child is tracked on the computer and their attendance figures are recorded and analysed in school census information that is sent nationally every term.

It is good to see that many of our children have excellent attendance and only a few are late. Thank you as it makes our work easier and prevents many hours of unnecessary follow up and discussions. Some schools have huge issues to face and then there is less time to spend on learning and the curriculum development.

We need to make all parents/carers aware of the following: It is the law that all parents make sure that their children attend school. The government have now stated that children who attend for less than 90% of the sessions are classed as causing concern and under 85% persistent absentees. The expectation is moving to at least 95% attendance. There will be children who have had persistent illness last term and by the end of the year I am sure their data will improve.

You will know whether there are reasons for the data eg If you had a 'holiday' last term and your child was ill as well it is possible that they fell into this group. Do make sure you look at it and do query it if you think it is not right! We will be uploading this as part of the census in the next few weeks.

These things are what we have to analyse and make parents aware of:

### Patterns in attendance

Most worrying are the pupils who have a regular day off – not that there are many in our school compared to most but a few are showing. This means that children may have the same day off each term or a different one regularly over the weeks. There are days when any one of us feel tired or would prefer to be doing something else, but it is amazing how much learning takes place every day. Children with gaps in learning are often those who miss days. They feel as though others are ahead because they have missed the day before sessions. Parents who do not send their children to school when they are

fit enough can actually cause their child to lose confidence and self-esteem unnecessarily. Whereas we do not want sick children at school, some children do seem to miss quite a few sessions- do make sure they are in school whenever possible. An Education Welfare Officer (EWO) may request a report from the GP or the school nurse may make contact if a child's attendance is causing concern.

### Lateness

A few children are missing the first few minutes of maths and causing disruption by being late into sessions. Please can the collective New Year's resolution be to make sure all children are in for registration by 8.50 at the latest. Remember doors open at 8.40 and the registers are taken at 8.50.

### Unauthorised absences

Without a reasonable explanation then children will not have a code that will record a reason that will authorise absence. The EWO monitors children with these. Please do inform the office on the morning of absence and if letters are sent home requesting the information please do return to update our systems. Apologies if you think you have already given a reason we do try to make sure that information is recorded immediately, but there will be times when systems do not work.

Thank you for all your help with this and I hope that by the end of this term nobody will be under 90% attendance!

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

#### THIS WEEK:

Thursday 5 Jan                      Swimming Lessons (yrs 3/5)

#### NEXT WEEK:

Mon 9 January                      Hi-5 Netball

Weds 11 January                      KS2 Panto visit  
Sportshall Athletics: Saltash

Thursday 12 Jan                      Swimming Lessons (yrs 3/5)

Weds 18 January                      Friends Meeting 9.15am

Mon 30 January                      Hi-5 Netball