

# All Saints' C of E Primary School

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*Inspire Challenge Succeed*

31<sup>st</sup> January 2014

Dear Parents,

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDER

Please could all orders be returned by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February. For every £1 spent, the school earns 20p to spend on books for our classrooms and school library.

## BURY FREE PRESS

As part of our Year of the Writer initiative, children in Horse Chestnut Class have been working with a reporter from the Bury Free Press to help them create their own newspaper articles. A number of children feature in an article about this work in this week's Bury Free Press.

## VALENTINES DAY LUNCH 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014

Pepperoni or Margherita Pizza  
Curly Fries  
Spaghetti Hoops  
Double Chocolate Cupcake

## SUFFOLK ATTENDANCE STRATEGY 2013—15

Suffolk County council has a strong commitment to participation in education as a key factor in improving the life opportunities of children and young people in Suffolk. It links directly to Suffolk's Raising the Bar agenda

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Parents, Schools, and the Local Authority (LA) all have a crucial role to play in ensuring that children attend school regularly and that absence is tackled promptly.

**Why is good school attendance important?**

- There is a direct link between school attendance and achievement
- Children who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve and less likely to become unemployed
- Being in school keeps children safe

**What parent(s) need to do:**

- Ensure their children are in school on time every day
- Send their children to school with the correct uniform and equipment for the day including provision for lunch
- Take an interest in their child's education
- Talk to staff as soon as possible if problems arise
- Only take family holidays during school holidays

**What School(s) need to do:**

- Have an attendance policy that is clear to staff, pupils and parents
- Have systems in place to identify pupils who are absent
- Know why individual pupils are absent and work with the pupils, parents any other involved professionals (if any) to ensure full attendance is achieved as soon as possible

**What the Local Authority needs to do:**

- Work in partnership with schools to ensure best practice is followed by schools and challenge schools if this is not the case
- When working with children, young people and their families ensure that improving and sustaining good school attendance is part of every plan
- Ensure that families are supported and challenged when pupils with poor levels of attendance are identified
- Take legal action to require parent(s) to send their child(ren) to school when appropriate
- Ensure that children not in the mainstream school system are receiving an appropriate curriculum

**HALF TERM**

Just a reminder that half term runs from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February. School will reopen on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014

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Dear Parents,

**FOREST FOR OUR CHILDREN AGM**

MONDAY 10th MARCH 2014

7.00pm until 9.00pm

The Foundry, Bury Road

Come and find out what the woodlands have to offer you and your family in the year to come. Including talks from:

- Geoff Morrison – Birds over Lawshall
- Joel Hughes – outlining this year's plans for getting young people stuck back in...

\*In accordance with the constitution some members of the Steering Group will be stepping down after their four year terms of office. Nominations for new members are invited (to be received at least seven days before the AGM – i.e. by 3rd March). If you are at all interested or think you might be please contact, for more information and/or a nomination form Chris Grunsell, Chair on 01284 828663 or Martin Adams, Steering Group Member on 01284 830930.

Tea, Coffee and homemade munchies will be there to enjoy and keep you refreshed!

Please join us at the Foundry

**FREE ENGLISH CLASSES FOR PARENTS**

In conjunction with West Suffolk College we will be offering free English classes for parents over a ten week period commencing on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. This course will enable you to brush up on your understanding of all aspects of English, including English grammar. Parents who have taken part in similar courses in the past have found that these classes have helped them to support their child with their English skills. Each session will start at 9am until 12pm and will take place in Little Acorn class. Please could you contact 01284 716342 if you would like to participate but we would ask that you also notify the school so that we can keep a record of numbers. A flyer has been put in your child's book bag with further information.

**ESAFETY SESSIONS**

We have had a good response to our ESafety Parent sessions this half term. Twenty six parents have attended across our evening and morning sessions and responses have been very positive. These sessions have been led by our PCSO Siobhan Hemmett who has also spoken to the children in Key Stage Two about how to stay safe online. Please visit our ESafety link on our school website to find out further information.

**SPORTS AND PE FUNDING**

As you may be aware each school now receives a grant to improve the quality of sports and PE within our schools. This term the teachers in Key Stage One have been working with Will Hopkin Jones from the Gipping Valley and Thurston School Sports Partnership to develop gym skills with our younger children. After half term Mr Hopkin Jones will work with our older children to also focus on gymnastics and skills progression. In addition to this, Gerry Herod will also carry out hockey training sessions on Wednesday afternoons with children in Key Stage Two, culminating in a Bury Schools Partnership Hockey Tournament in March.

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As part of our involvement with the Bury Schools Partnership we will be attending more inter school tournaments with other partnership schools. Using some of our funding we have now purchased a school kit for children participating in these events.

### **BURY SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP**

As a partnership we work collectively as a group of schools to look at ways of raising attainment and achievement for our pupils across the curriculum. I lead the maths group for the partnership and each year we run interschool activities to extend pupil's mathematical skills through maths workshops run at King Edward VI Upper School. Alongside this, all maths coordinators come together to look at calculation policies to ensure consistency amongst all partnership schools.

At the end of February the maths group will be holding a World of Work Day where groups of children from each school will visit a business in Bury St Edmunds to find out how they use maths as part of their day to day work. Each group have a guided tour of the business and will then have an opportunity to carry out an interview. These visits will be filmed by media students from King Edward VI Upper School in order to create a film of the World of Work Day which will be shown on the Bury Schools Partnership website and the Bury Free Press will feature some of the reports written by participating schools. Eight Year 4 children from our school will visit Greene King Brewery on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February as part of this initiative accompanied by Mrs Lamb and Mr Larner (Parent Governor).

### **PARKING**

As you are all aware parking is a regular feature within my newsletters as we still have a number of parents who are parking on the zig zag lines and/ or dropping children off to walk unaccompanied across the school car park. Our PCSO Siobhan Hemmett is monitoring this very carefully and will issue fines to parents who are found to be on the zig zag lines at the beginning or end of the school day. Our PCSO is more than happy for parents to contact her directly if they have a concern regarding parking on telephone number 101.

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February I met with Councillor Richard Kemp and the Chair of the Parish Council, Jon Kydd to look at parking issues at the school. Mr Kydd and myself highlighted the issues and gave suggestions to Councillor Kemp about possible solutions including extending the pavement from Swanfield and creating parking areas in other places which would ease the parking issue whilst ensuring the safety of our pupils.

### **WE ARE WRITERS**

As Literacy coordinator Mrs Kemp is always looking at ways in which to encourage our children (and families) to gain a love of vocabulary, writing and reading. Our Vibrant Vocabulary initiative has been a great success and our children have enjoyed discovering new words and their meanings as well as trying to use them in everything that they do! Words are generated by each class and have included: miniscule, flabbergasted, melancholy,

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parsimonious, scuttled, pampered and pungent. I look forward to seeing which words the children will conjure up next half term!

This half term forty six children took part in our writing challenge. Thank you to the children who took time to participate and to parents for supporting this initiative. We hope that more children will take part next term.

Mrs Kemp has also sent a letter home promoting our sponsored reading event which will run from 17<sup>th</sup> February through to 17<sup>th</sup> March. Whilst raising funds for new books within school, this event will encourage our children to spend more time reading which will have a positive impact on their progress.

### **TASTY NUMBERS COOKERY CLUB**

Mrs Clark started her Tasty Numbers Cookery Club this term. Whilst giving the children an opportunity to bake, the main focus of this club is to develop enterprise skills for our children and to enable our children to see how maths is important in day to day life. The children have been carrying out activities to calculate the cost of ingredients and quantities and then the profit they have made following their bake sales.

### **SCHOOL CHOIR**

Miss Marnes, as music coordinator, has been working with other schools with the Bury Schools Partnership to form a choir in Key Stage two who will perform at a concert in the Apex in Bury St Edmunds. We hope that the choir will be able to perform their songs at our Easter coffee afternoon on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

### **FILM CLUB**

The school and Parent Group will introduce a Film Club after half term. Details of this club will be in each child's book bag today. If you are interested in your child attending this club please complete the form and return to school.

I hope that you have an enjoyable half term break. Don't forget that school restarts on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Kindest Regards,

Clare Lamb  
Headteacher

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