

September 2017 Newsletter

Pinewood Infant School

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the school year! I would like to warmly welcome all of our new families to Pinewood Infant School and hope that everyone enjoyed a lovely summer break.

All of the children have settled into their new classes and it is lovely to walk around the school and see so many children enthusiastic about their learning. It has also been nice to meet lots of you in the mornings, if you have any questions about the school please feel free to come and speak to either myself or Mrs Carolyn Burleigh (Deputy Head teacher).

The autumn term is always busy and full of lots of activities and events so please take a few minutes to read through this newsletter and familiarize yourself with the key dates and activities.

I look forward to seeing some of you for a cup of tea and a slice of cake on Friday 29th September at the Macmillan coffee afternoon.

Class Topics

This half term the children will be learning about the following topics:



Ladybird Class – All About Me/Harvest



Hedgehog Class – Into the Woods



Fox Class – Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf!



Upcoming Events

Wednesday 20th September

Year One and Two Curriculum & Reading Evening 2.30 pm & 6.30pm

Wednesday, 27th September

A day in Ladybird Class
Workshop for parents 8.45am

Thursday, 28th September

A day in Ladybird Class
Workshop for parents
6.30pm(repeated)

Friday, 29th September

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Tuesday 17th October & Wednesday 18th October

Parents' Evening for all year groups

Thursday, 19th October

Harvest assembly 2.30pm for all parents to attend.

Monday 23rd – Friday, 27th October

HALF TERM

Monday 30th October

INSET DAY

Wednesday 1st November

Individual School Photographs
Further dates for the year are on the school website.

Rushmoor in Bloom



Congratulations to the following children who were awarded places in this year's Rushmoor in Bloom Painting competition:

Noah (Y2) – 1st in Assisted category and overall winner

Leah (YR) – 2nd in Assisted category and overall winner

Isabella (Y2) – 3rd in Assisted category and overall winner

Olivia Z (Y2) 1st in the Key Stage 1 category

Mariella (Y2) 2nd in the Key Stage 1 category

We were also delighted that our Squires 'Herb Pot' was awarded 3rd by the judges and our 'Bee Friendly Garden' was awarded highly commended.

Staff News

I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Mrs Sarah Roberston to Pinewood Infant School. She is joining the team as the Year 1 class teacher following a very successful placement with us last term. Year 1 parents will have the opportunity to get to know Mrs Roberston and find out further information about the Year 1 curriculum at the Meet the Teacher meeting.

I am also happy to announce that Mrs Barnett, the class teacher in Year 2, is expecting her first baby and will begin her maternity leave in January. We are currently advertising the position and will inform all parents of the outcome as soon as possible.

I am also delighted to tell you that this term; Mrs Elspeth Simpson has been asked to support the Special Needs team at Hampshire County Council. She will be in school for part of each week.

Sunrisers (Breakfast Club)



Breakfast club is held every morning in the hall from 7.45 am until 8.45am and is run by Mrs Fitzpatrick from the school. All children, who arrive at breakfast club before 8.20am, can enjoy a healthy breakfast and take part in a variety of fun activities. Each session costs £3.00 and can be booked on the day or in advance. Forms are available on the display stand in the school entrance.

After School Clubs

Information for all school clubs will be sent out this week and the clubs will start week beginning 18th September. This term we will have the following clubs on offer:

Tuesdays – Gymnastics

Wednesdays – Dance

Friday – Multi Sports (Year 1 & 2)

This term, I am delighted to say that the very popular Mr Matt Sanders, our PE sports coach, will continue to offer two lunch time clubs and an after school multi sports club on a Friday. In order for more children to be able to access the popular football club Mr Sanders will run this as a lunch time club in school on a Monday or Tuesday. All of the children will be able to take part at no cost should they wish to. The children will also be able to join his after school multi sports club on a Friday for a small cost, further information will be provided.

Medical Conditions

If your child has a medical condition or food allergy which requires support in school please speak to or contact Mrs Allison Nunn in the school office.

Year One and Two Curriculum Information Evening



We would like to invite the parents of Year One and Two children to a workshop to find out how they can help support their child's learning at school. This is an opportunity to talk to the teachers, find out about the things the children at school each day and to ask any questions that you may have about Reading with your child. The workshop is being held at 2.30pm and again at 6.30pm on **Wednesday 20th September**.

A day in Ladybird Class

We would like to invite all of the parents of Ladybird children to attend a workshop to find out more information about what your child does every day in school and how you can help support your child in learning to read and write. The workshop is being held at 8.45am on Wednesday 27th September and again at 6.30pm on Thursday 28th September. We look forward to seeing you all there.



Dogs on the school site



It has been brought to my attention that there are a number of parents bringing dogs on to the school site. I recognise that dogs are an important part of family life for many in the school community, and as such are often included in day- to- day activities such as walking children to and from school. However, others may find the presence of dogs in the playground and school grounds stressful, even frightening particularly with younger children, and even well behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment. I would like to remind all parents that **NO DOGS are ALLOWED** on the school site, unless they are part of a curriculum activity provided in the school and a thorough risk assessment has been completed.

Positive Parenting Courses

Below is information about forthcoming Positive Parenting courses in NE Hampshire. Apologies if you've already received details of the first two of these, but we've recently added further courses and have extended our information distribution to cover all schools in NE Hampshire.

Handling Anger in the Family – a new 4-session course on Monday evenings in Hartley Wintney starting 25th September

Time Out for Parents: The Primary Years – a 6-session course for parents of 4-11 year olds on Wednesday evenings in Hartley Wintney starting 1st November

Time Out from ADHD – a 3-session course for parents of children with special needs on Monday evenings in Alton starting 2nd October

Time Out for Parents: The Teenage Years – a 7-session course for parents of 10-16 year olds on Thursday evenings in Hartley Wintney starting 11th January (a week earlier than originally planned).

Full information about all the Time Out for Parents courses is on the Care for the Family website at <https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/courses/parenting-courses-time-out>.

Finally, for parents with children on the autistic spectrum, there's a two-hour session on Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder being held at the Butts School in Alton on Sunday afternoon, 5th November.

Absence

As a school we are working very hard to improve the absence rates of our pupils and to encourage a good attendance culture within the school. The introduction of the school administering 'Calpol' when children are feeling a little under the weather had a very positive impact on the rates of attendance last year. The guidelines from Hampshire County Council on authorising holiday requests remain the same and the Headteacher can only authorise absence in exceptional circumstances. If you know that you need to request time off school then please come and speak to Mrs Cook about your situation and we can provide you with a request form. This year we will be celebrating the children's attendance each half term and issuing certificates to children who have 100% attendance rates. At the end of the year, there will be a special prize for one of the children who received a certificate throughout the year.

Mrs Cook will continue to monitor the children's attendance on a weekly basis so if you do have any concerns or difficulties please come and speak to her.

Beginning of the year reminders

Nut/Egg Allergies - Please be aware that we have children in school with nut and egg allergies and would ask that you therefore do not include egg sandwiches or items containing nuts in your child's packed lunch. Also please ensure that your child's lunch box is clearly marked with his/her name.

Late Arrival/Collecting Children during the School Day - If you arrive after registration or you need to collect your child during the school day, please would you ensure that you come to the school reception to sign them in/out. Please do not take/collect them from the classroom.

Safety on the school site

1. **Parking** – Towards the end of the school year there appeared to be more parents using the teacher's car park or the turning circle to park when they dropped their child at Breakfast club or when they picked them up from an After school club. I would like to remind all parents that only **school staff** are allowed to use the car park and turning circle. This is to safeguard everyone and ensure that there are no accidents involving children and vehicles. I would also like to remind parents that the car park outside of the school gate is for the use of residents and their visitors. Please be considerate when parking if it is necessary to use a car for the school run and park in allocated spaces around the estate.
2. **Driveway** – Please take extra care when crossing the driveway at the beginning and end of the school day and be aware of taxis and mini buses arriving and leaving the site. We have pedestrian entrances at either side of the school site, please use these and **do not** walk up the drive.
3. **Playground safety-** For the continuing safety of the children we do not allow them to play near the gate or the fence which borders the path. If you happen to be passing along the path please do not encourage your child to come over to the fence to talk to you. Also, please be advised that the playground apparatus is for use during school time only and **not** as an after school facility. Playground and turning circle gates will be locked between the hour of 9am and 3pm. Parent coming in to school during these hours are asked to use the 'Woodland Walk' entrance.
4. **Bikes and Scooters** – it is lovely to see so many children (and parents) cycling or 'scooting' to school. Bikes and scooters may be left in the cycle storage facility during the day. **To avoid accidents along the path and in the playground please dismount bikes and scooters when entering the school premises.** Thank you.
5. **Jewelry-** For safety reasons only studs should be worn and all earrings should be removed **before** school on PE days.

Parentmail

All those who have registered for 'Parentmail' are now on the system and should be receiving communications by email. When new messages are sent copies are displayed on the window by each classroom and the notice board in front of the school. Hard copies are always available from the display stand in the school entrance.



Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Day in aid of Cancer Relief.

Tea and cake for adults and toddlers from 2.30pm to 3.15pm

Friday, 29th September

Please look out for posters and invitations from the children.

School children will have the chance to participate in this event through buying a cupcake in their class. This will be labelled and sent home at the end of the day.