



STEPHENSON WAY ACADEMY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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School News

15th March 2018

Dear Parents

Ofsted Inspection

As you may be aware, we have recently been inspected by Ofsted. The report was very positive, complimenting a range of aspects, including safeguarding, the curriculum, children's attitudes to learning, behaviour, social emotional and personal development, the work of the special educational needs team and outcomes in the SATs. As with any inspection, the report provides recommendations to help us improve further, in this case for example in developing Science. You can read the full report on our website: http://swcps.co.uk/sw_ofsted.html Here are some quotes from the report which comment on what life is like for children at their school:

- Pupils now experience an enhanced curriculum which you tailor creatively to meet their interests.
- Staff and pupils share a warm rapport.
- Pupils told me that they feel safe and enjoy school. They find many tasks and much of their learning 'fun'.
- Inquisitive, spirited and respectful pupils adorn the school. Their positive attitudes and good conduct are a result of your committed investment in this area of pupils' development.
- You have successfully improved the quality of teaching and learning of phonics in Year 1.
- The proportion of pupils reaching expected standards in reading, writing and mathematics in key stage 2 improved in 2017 to match national averages.
- Vulnerable pupils and those who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities are well looked after in your caring, happy school.
- Your leadership team swiftly implemented a range of strategies to support pupils and families to understand the importance of good attendance.
- You are determined to improve pupils' life chances by securing good attendance and eradicating regular absence.
- Safeguarding is effective. Leaders ensure that safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose. Detailed and well-maintained records support your work to safeguard pupils effectively.
- This is a warm and inviting environment in which the ethos is positive. Respect between staff and pupils is mutual.

Breakfast Club

Just a reminder that no child should wander into breakfast club without being brought to school by an adult. Breakfast club starts early when very few people are walking the streets, which means that lone children walking to school by themselves are at more risk of coming to harm.



Attendance

As you'll read in our Ofsted report, school was praised for its systems and procedures around encouraging good attendance, however since attendance still remains too low for some children, Ofsted have kept attendance as one of our recommendations to improve. This is one area which school cannot improve without the assistance of parents. Most children have good attendance, but for those children who do not, school has to move through the various steps: letters to parents, meetings with parents, asking for medical evidence, involving the county's attendance improvement team, prosecution. These are steps we never want to use, however we have a legal responsibility to do so. If you are having issues with ensuring good attendance of your children, please speak to us because there are very few issues which cannot be resolved quickly.

Asthma and Inhalers

We are further tightening up our systems and procedures around asthma and inhalers. If you have recorded that your child has asthma on the school medical form, this means that your child should have a named inhaler and an asthma care plan in school (both provided by the GP/asthma clinic). Although we have emergency inhalers in school and take them on trips and visits, each child with asthma should have their own inhaler in school, which is in date and has been signed in at the office (by parents). If you have any questions about this, please contact the school.

World Book Day/Sports Relief/Film Night

As you may be aware, World Book Day didn't happen for us because the school was closed due to heavy snow. Instead, we'll be having World Book Day this Thursday (22nd) with all the same arrangements. Sports Relief and Film night (Y1,2,3) are both on Friday – letters/information have already gone out to parents about these events.

Parent Mail

Hopefully you have all had an email or text message, inviting you to join Parent Mail and instructions of how to do so. If you haven't had an email or text about this, please contact the school office. If you have, but haven't yet signed up, please do so straight away so as not to miss important information. If you haven't given your email address to the office yet, or it needs updating, please can you do so before half term – just pop in or give the office a call on 01325 300324. Also, the current text messaging system will end soon and only parentmail will be used.

County Finals

This week we have 3 children at county sports finals. Bethany Simpson made the county final in the Key Steps Gymnastics competition and Jamil Jahed and Cadence Claude qualified in the Aquability Swimming Gala. Congratulations to all and we're looking forward to seeing how they get on later in the week.

Science Enrichment Week

Following on fast from our enrichment week a few weeks ago all about 'Healthy Me', next week we are having another enrichment week around Science. For two days we have a visiting company on site to work with the children on Scientific investigations and experiments. For the rest of the week, teachers will be providing a science themed curriculum all around exciting children's curiosity for all things scientific!

Head Lice

We have had several cases of head lice recently; could parents check and treat if necessary. Guidelines mean that we only authorise half a day for this to be done. Once a child has been treated, they are fine to return to school.

Please contact me via the school office if you have any questions about the information in this newsletter.

Many thanks
Mr Jones