

Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery School

Easter 2016 Newsletter

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Curriculum Opportunities and New SATs Tests

Dear Parents,

It's been another successful period in school, with the spring term bringing with it a number of national events such as World Book Day and Sports Relief. In addition, there have been many opportunities for children to participate in sporting and curriculum enrichment activities throughout the term. The children clearly enjoyed these events as they have provided an extra dimension to our already interesting and vibrant curriculum. Also it was great to see so many parents in school for our Learn Together sessions. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

February was a particularly busy term because it signalled the end of a curriculum semester. Since the start of the academic year children have studied many diverse topics. Across school children have had the opportunity to examine different cultures, major historical events, moral and social dilemmas, as well as getting to grips with the writing of well-known and loved children's authors. The coming semester will be no different with new themes and topics being used to give children many different and engaging experiences.

Looking forward, after half term there is an important month for our Year 2 and 6 children with SATs looming. This is the first year of brand new tests and the children face a significant challenge since the expected standard that children now need to reach is more demanding. The children have been working hard and, if they maintain the focus and attitude shown in their preparations, staff are confident that the children will achieve pleasing results.

On behalf of myself and the staff I would like to thank you for your continued support and I hope you and your children have an enjoyable Easter Holiday.

Mr T. Cassap



Sports Relief Day

As part of our work on developing children's spiritual, moral and cultural understanding we took part in Sports Relief 2016. The day started with a whole school dance, which was choreographed expertly by Miss. Whitfield. The children enjoyed learning the dance moves to "Up Town Funk" and the event was a great success. After the dancing had finished the children popped on their shooting boots for a penalty shoot competition. The children showed great skills and we've got many budding footballers in school. The theme of sports continued well into the afternoon with children taking part in a competition to design a mascot for Sports Relief. As a school we look to support good causes and partake in national events such as Sports Relief and the children always throw themselves fully into the events.



World Book Day

World Book Day was a great success again this term, and the day was marked by the children dressing as their favourite literary character. Literature and reading are a vital part of our curriculum and we look to celebrate and encourage reading all year round. If you would like to know how to further support your child with reading then don't hesitate to speak to a member of staff. Regular reading makes a huge difference to a child's education!



Attendance and Lateness

Firstly, we would like to thank parents for all the efforts they are making in ensuring children are in school and get to school on time. As you may be aware, the government target for attendance is 95% and currently we are at just over 94%. It is important that children are in school and partaking in lessons as much as possible, so we look forward to another successful term's attendance after Easter. If you would like to discuss any issues regarding the attendance of your child, then please contact the school as there are many ways in which we can support.

Sporting Opportunities

It has been another brilliant term for school sports. We have entered teams and individuals into a wide range of events and competitions and have had some significant success. Children who have been selected to represent school have worked extremely hard in the run up to the competitions and events and have represented school with distinction. As a school we always aim to compete well but most importantly we endeavour to show good sportsmanship and all round positive attitude to sport and competition. We have had a number of successes from our sports teams with one of our pupils representing the school at the county swim-ability gala recently, winning three medals. Also our Key Stage 1 children performed well at a multi-sports competition at Greenfield school and for the first time ever won the competition.



New parent governors

We are delighted to welcome two new governors to the governing body. Mrs Mole has joined us as a parent governor and Reverend Loughran has joined as a member appointed governor. Each of our governors has a specific role in holding school to account for its work. If you would like to find out more about the work of the governing body or would like talk to one of our governors then you can make an appointment via the office.

Changes to Wrap Around Care

During the summer term we're going to be looking at making some changes to our early morning and after school care arrangements. As soon as possible we'll be running Tea Time club for longer and will be adding a homework support element to it. Although popularity has increased, places are available in our Tea Time and Breakfast Clubs. Breakfast club can be accessed without booking. However if you would like your child to attend Tea Time club please make a booking via the office. There is also the opportunity to make "last-minute" bookings by calling the office.

Holiday Requests

With summer approaching, we would like to remind you that holidays during term time can only be granted in exceptional circumstances, irrespective of the child's current attendance figure. If you need to discuss this, please arrange a meeting with Mr Cassap or Mr Jones through the office.

Nursery closure

A notice to parents of nursery children that the nursery will be closed all day on May 5th and June 23rd for elections. Unfortunately, the closure is unavoidable as the site has for a long time been nominated as the polling station for this area of town. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Information from the office

Uniform

If you would like to order new uniform then please place your orders with the office as early as possible in the summer term. Uniform order forms can be collected from the office or printed from our website.

School Dinners

If you wish to change your child from school dinner to packed lunch and vice versa, the office asks that, if possible, they receive 1 week's notice so necessary changes to orders and registers can be made.

Contact Details

If you have changed address or phone number it is vitally important that the office is informed. If you aren't sure we have the correct the information, please contact the office immediately.

Dates for Your Diary

Summer Term Dates 2016

11.4.16	School reopens after the Easter Holidays
2.5.16	School closed for May Day
3.5.16	IEP meetings for parents
9.5.16 - 13.5.16	SATs week—all Y2 and Y6 children must attend school
23.5.16—26.5.16	Sports Week (including sports days)
26.5.16	School closes for half term
6.6.16	School reopens
4.7.16—8.7.16	School Performances Week—details to follow
11.7.16 – 15.7.16	Events Week—details to follow
20.7.16	School closes for summer
TBC	School reopens