



Paulton Infant School

Newsletter No. 5 January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to Term 3 2018. The children have settled really well despite it being so soon after the New Year celebrations. We are working on Ruby Power this term; Being kind, sharing the success of others, supporting others and listening to others. We are also consolidating Sapphire Power (focus) and Emerald Power (have a go).

STAFF CHANGES

At the end of last term we said farewell to Mrs Meadows who had worked as a Teaching Assistant at Paulton Infants for several years. Mrs Meadows was touched at the beautiful cards and messages from the children and will enjoy the challenges presented in her new role.

We warmly welcome Mrs Chalk who has been employed as Teaching Assistant. Mrs Chalk has a wealth of experience with Early Years and is a super addition to our team.

We are also pleased to welcome back Mrs Holmes from maternity leave. She is now teaching in Jade class. Mrs Kendrew left Jade class in December to take maternity leave and I'm sure you will all wish to congratulate her upon hearing the news that she now has a bouncing baby boy; 8lb 1oz :)

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Bags of Help

Our Tesco Bags for Help collection is underway. We are keeping our fingers crossed that our school can collect the most tokens to help us with our scrap storage. Please ask your friends and family to support us. More information is available at www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp

We are also asking our PTA to raise funds towards purchase and storage of scrap and have also put in a bid for a funding grant. Using their imagination, the Scrapstore materials become a huge range of interesting things during the children's playtimes. If you are able to help provide a van to collect scrap from Bristol, Glastonbury or Lacock, please let the office know.

SMSAs

If you know anyone who would like to work for us as a casual SMSA, please do ask them to call in at the office. We are always on the lookout for someone who can step in at short notice. The lunchtime staff are a warm, friendly and helpful team and do a great job supporting play outdoors as well as helping the children with their lunches.

SWIMMING LESSONS



Swimming lessons started for Reception children this term and they have managed really well. Thank you to all volunteer helpers so far. We would not be able to ensure this unique opportunity for infant children to learn to swim happens without you consistently helping the staff to support children in the changing room and the pool. The children benefit enormously from learning water safety skills (potentially life saving) as well as further supporting their physical development, coordination, health and well-being.

Please sign up on the sheets on classroom doors to let the class teacher know which weeks you are able to support the children in the pool or changing rooms. This will enable us to prepare for the whole term rather than having to text for help. Also please make sure you bring your DBS certificate to the office. Safeguarding legislation means we have to insist that all helpers at the pool have DBS certificates in place.

READING HELPERS



Can you give some time each week to make a huge difference to a child's reading progression? We are really keen for additional volunteers to help with reading as the squeeze on the budget is allowing less hours for staff to spend on 1-1 reading. It takes one adult a day and half to solely read 1-1 with a whole class so any help makes an enormous difference to the support we can provide for each child.

LATE ARRIVALS

If you are late arriving at school (the doors close at 8.50am) Please bring your child to be signed in at the main office. Once registers have closed in the classroom, we need to know which children have been officially marked in the register in case we have a fire or a fire practice. Thank you.

Please can I also remind you that as we are an Infant school, we insist that someone **over the age of 16** drops off and collects your child from either their classroom or the main office. If they are unknown to staff, we do expect they know the pre-arranged password.

Staff are really keen to support you with settling your child into class each day and as such it can be really tricky to have a detailed conversation at the door in the morning when they are aware of the 30 children waiting for them. Please can you either arrange to have these conversations at the end of the school day or call to make an appointment via the office. Thank you.



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD



SICKNESS

Please remember following H&S guidelines, children must not return to school for the 48 hours following their last bout of sickness.

BOOKBAGS

Please can you make sure your child's name is clearly labelled on the front of their book bag. It would also be helpful to ensure your child's name is clearly labelled in all their belongings at school. Thank you.

OUTSIDE EMERGENCY



Following guidance from the Local Authority, all schools are being encouraged to carry out a 'Lockdown' practice to prepare for serious incidents other than fire such as , escape of gas, extreme weather, intruders etc. As a school we have called this 'Outside Emergency' practice. This week the

children and staff carried out their first practice and the children were fantastic. Within 2 minutes they had moved themselves to a safe space within the school and were incredibly calm. They are also equally brilliant when we have fire drill and can line up in silence in under two and a half minutes.

COLD WEATHER

'There is no such thing as bad weather— only inappropriate clothing!' Sir Ranulph Fiennes.



We are still seeing lots of children without warm hats, scarves, gloves and coats in the really cold weather. Please can you ensure your child bring these to school every day so we can continue with our learning indoors and out. As some PE sessions will

be outdoors it is important your child comes with track-suit bottoms and a warm tracksuit top.

PLAY

Since returning to school from the Christmas break, we have noticed several children trying to play fight and play rough games. Please can you remind your child this is not allowed at school . Some children play these games whilst re-enacting films and TV programmes they have been watching. It is important they are taught to understand the difference between reality and fantasy. This is something infant aged children really struggle with, especially when caught up in the excitement of their game.



DANCE UMBRELLA

A letter will be coming home for all Year 2 children soon. Please look out for it as it will share all details about this year's Dance Umbrella.

SATS MEETING—Y2 20/02/18 at 6pm

For those parents/Carers unable to make the last meeting, we will be holding another meeting to explain current end of year expectations, what the test papers actually look like, how we manage the Y2 Standard Assessment Tests in school and how you can help your child at home. We look forward to seeing you there.

ABSENCE

Please remember it is a parent/carer's responsibility to ensure their child attends school regularly. Schools have a duty to monitor children's attendance and investigate low and unusual attendance patterns. Parents/Carers of children who regularly miss a day or more each week over a 10 week period will be invited into school to discuss the reasons behind their child's attendance record. This is to establish if there are any health or other concerns that need to be addressed. All schools expect 100% attendance over the course of the year . We always support medical appointments with evidence of a medical appointment card or letter and understand there will be times when children are best looked after at home when they have bugs or illnesses. Schools are not permitted to authorise holiday in term time unless there is a highly unusual circumstance that you are able to share in full with the Head Teacher.

Attendance to date	
Ruby	95%
Jade	95%
Opal	95%
Emerald	97%
Diamond	97%
Sapphire	97%
Amethyst	96%
Topaz	96%
TOTAL	96%

DATES

- 06/02/18 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00
- 08/02/18 Parents' Evening 4.00—7.00
- 09/02/18 End of Term 3
- 19/02/18 Start of Term 4
- 20/02/18 Y2 SATs meeting 6pm
- 26/02/18 Book week begins with 'Meet an Author'
- 27/02/18 Read with a friend day
- 28/02/18 Poetry day
- 01/03/18 World Book Day—Dress as your favourite character
- 02/03/18 Read with a grown up day
- 23/03/18 End of Term 4

Kind Regards,

Julie Hogan January 2018

