

Dr Walker's C of E Primary School Newsletter
15th September 2017 - www.drwalkersfyfield.ik.org

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the end of our first full week at school! The children are now settling in to their new classes and getting to know their new teachers, new routines and building new friendships. I appreciate that last year was unsettled with the school going through a quite a few changes. However, this term and going forward the school has some exciting times ahead and I am delighted to be able to be a part of this. I would like to welcome our new staff, Mrs Walker & Miss Page - Hedgehogs, Ms Morley - Badgers, Mrs Thompson - Bees, Miss Brown - Caterpillars and of course myself Mrs Reid - Interim Head Teacher until the end of December. As you know the governors have appointed a permanent Head Teacher who will be starting in January. The Chair of Governors will shortly be contacting parents with further information.

Each class teacher will be writing to the parents of their class to explain what they are doing this term, their main focus and suggesting ways that you can help support. The letters and curriculum information will also be uploaded to the website for you to see. Teachers all see the children off at the end of the day so if you wish to speak to them then or make an appointment they are happy for you to do so. Newsletters will be sent out each week and clubs will start Monday 25th September. I strongly believe that to learn effectively and make good progress, children need to be nurtured, feel safe and also have a stimulating and creative curriculum which link's to our mission statement which states;

At Dr. Walker's School we develop **R**espect and **R**esponsibility,
Build **P**erseverance and **C**reativity,
Combine Christian values with **C**ourage and **C**ompassion for us to become successful British Citizens.

At Dr Walkers CE Primary School we are lucky to have small class sizes which enable all members of staff to know the children and therefore know when they may need some extra support. We pride ourselves on being a caring environment both for our children and for their families. Teaching children the Christian Values and how these can reflect on their daily lives is an important ethos of our school.

The autumn term is my favourite as it often still has the last vestiges of summer where we still hold on to the warm days but as the season changes; I love to see the wonderful colour changes before we slowly creep into winter. In school it is also a full on experience, alongside all our learning which includes trips and or visitors, we are also involved with many other activities.

At the end of September we are linking one Friday Achievement Sharing Assembly with a Macmillan's coffee/tea afternoon, our Harvest Festival takes place the beginning of October, where the children will be making flower arrangements to place in the church as well as harvest offerings, Remembrance Day, where I am aiming to take some children as representatives to the Ongar memorial to place a wreath on behalf of the school, and dare I mention our Christmas festivities! Lots more details of these events will be provided nearer the time but please do keep an eye out for dates at the end of the newsletter.

Each year I know the school raises money for a nominated charity which is a wonderful thing to do. I am aware that the school has a number of staff or close relatives of staff, who have had or are still suffering with cancer & I am sure that many of you also know of someone too. Although this is slightly different from how you have decided previously, it was felt that for this year it would seem appropriate that the charity the school adopted should be Cancer Research, as without this we would not have so many success stories. Mrs Myers is a great example of this as we have recently been made aware that she has been given the all clear, which is fabulous news. I hope that you will get behind us all and help us raise lots of money for this very importance area of research.

Reminders

It is always good to start the new academic year with a few reminders:

- If anyone other than yourself is picking up your child, please let the School Office know by 12:30pm. If you have a regular arrangement for your child to be picked up by another parent/person, please put this in writing to the School Office. As this is a new academic year even if you have done this in the past we would appreciate renewed instructions.
-  When dropping off or picking up your children from school, please be considerate of our neighbours by not blocking driveways. There is parking available at Fyfield Village Hall.
- Gates are open from 8.45am and the lessons start at 8.55am, if your child is late it does have an impact on their progress as:

5 minutes late a day - means 3 lost days over a year
15 minutes late a day - means 10 lost days over a year
30 minutes late a day - means 19 lost days over a year

10 minutes late a day - means 6.5 lost days over a year
20 minutes late a day - means 13 lost days over a year

- Please ensure that your child's clothing is named.
- As the weather changes, please send your child in with a coat also named, as we try to ensure the children get as much fresh air at playtimes unless it is really pouring down!
-   Please ensure that your child has their full PE kit in school every day Please remind your child that **only** watches and small stud earrings are allowed in school. Essex County Council has also asked for a reminder to be sent to parents on the jewellery policy in PE. **All jewellery must be removed for PE – Taping is not allowed.** This means if pupils cannot take out earrings they will have to sit out of PE until they can remove their earrings.
-  A fruit snack is provided for all infant children (Reception, Yr1 & Yr2) if your child is in Yrs 3,4,5, or 6 they need to be provided with their own healthy fruit snack if required.

Please make sure any snacks or packed lunches DO NOT INCLUDE ANY NUTS due to serious allergies. Thank you.

- Stomach/Sickness Bugs - we have been advised by Essex County Council that if a child (or member of staff) suffers from diarrhoea or vomiting they should not return to school until they have been symptom free for 48 hours.
- Our Achievement Sharing Assembly is every Friday at 2.45pm and all parents/carers are welcome. **Our first one will be Friday 22nd September** where we will be presenting this weeks and next week's stars of the week awards. We are also introducing two others - 'the class with the highest attendance for the week' plus 'the golden broom award' for the tidiest classroom. Our cleaner will be identifying which class has been the tidiest during the week.

Holidays during term time

Please be aware that holidays taken during term time could incur a penalty to parents by the Education Welfare Service. Please see our website for the school's Attendance Policy and a copy of the letter informing parents of the possibility of incurring a penalty by taking holidays during term time.

Mrs Reid



Many of you will have seen me on the school playground this week and may wonder who I am. I am here as the Interim Head Teacher and I am delighted to be a part of the team for Dr Walker's Co E School for this term.

I originally started my teaching career over 30years ago as a secondary PE specialist teacher in an Inner London School where I taught many different sports including my own specialist areas of gymnastics and trampolining. I am still a keen sports person and am involved in many outdoor activities such as rock climbing, skiing and downhill mountain biking.

After working in Secondary School, I then moved into Primary Schools where I eventually became the Head Teacher of my own school for 11 years before I left to become an independent Head Teacher. Since then I have successfully led and supported a number of schools who needed extra help.

Please do come and say hello to me if you see me around.

Regards

Mrs Reid

Diary Dates

- MacMillan Coffee Afternoon - Friday 29th September - 2:15pm
- Achievement Sharing Assembly - Every Friday at 2:45pm
- Flu Immunisation - Tuesday 3rd October - Information to follow
- Harvest Festival - Thursday 5th October - 9:30am St Nicholas Church, Fyfield

Share your views through Parent View

If you are unable to come to the parent forums you can of course discuss matters with your child's class teacher, Deputy Head or Headteacher or alternatively you can share your views through Parent View. Parents and carers can give their views of our school at any time of the school year *and* at the time of a school inspection using an online questionnaire called Parent View. Please register with an email address and a password at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>. Once your login has been activated, it only takes a few minutes to complete answers to 12 short questions about aspects of school life. Your views are important in helping inspectors make a decision about our school, and to help us know what is going well and what could be improved. If you do not have a computer or an email address or if you would like help to use Parent View, please come into school and ask at the School Office.