

Dr Walker's C of E Primary School Newsletter

February (2) 2017

www.drwalkersfyfield.ik.org

Please make sure any snacks or packed lunches **DO NOT INCLUDE ANY EGG, NUT or SESAME PRODUCTS** due to serious allergies. Thank you.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Staffing Update

On the last day of term, Mrs Dawson went on maternity leave. I conducted a round of interviews for her cover and did not appoint as I always make it my aim to recruit very strong teachers and I felt our pool of candidates did not offer what the school needed. Therefore, I have advertised again and this time, there seems to be more interest in the post. Whilst we wait for the interviews to take place, the class will be taught by both Mrs McEwen and Mrs Spanton together. They are both higher levelled trained LSAs and when they took the class last term they did a fantastic job. They know the children well, care deeply about their progress and the children respond really well to their teaching. I will be planning all of the lessons for the class and working closely with Mrs Hutson to ensure consistency.

In addition to finding cover for Mrs Dawson, I have also advertised for a teacher for Badger's Class and have managed to secure Mrs Orenstein for the rest of this term. Once again, I will be planning the lessons that will be being delivered and placing a high focus on SATs preparation for the Year Six. Mrs Orenstein is an experienced teacher and artist, so she will also be delivering her specialised subject in the afternoon for Upper Key Stage Two.

I understand that over the last year or so, there has been an unsettled time with staffing and this has been due to circumstances that just cannot be prevented. Since I have joined the school on my two mornings, I have made securing the best teaching team possible for Dr Walker's my aim and I will continue to do this until I leave.

Mrs Josanne Balcombe, the Chair of Governors, asked me to consider coming over to Dr Walker's five days a week after Easter and I have accepted. This will be an interim post until the end of this academic year, but it is one that I greatly look forward to as I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the team here on my two days. In my previous Head Teacher role, I took on a teaching commitment and I will do the same after Easter if there is a need. I love being in the classroom and know how to accelerate progress and engage pupils, so I would welcome the opportunity to take on a class teacher role part time at Dr Walker's alongside my Head role.

OFSTED is imminent and it is so important that this school does well in this inspection. At Ongar Primary, we did this by all stakeholders sharing the school values and accepting the changes that needed to take place. Everyone has a part to play in making Dr Walker's the best that it can be and so far I have been very impressed with your support. I have an open door policy and encourage you to come and speak to me if you have any questions or concerns. After Easter, I will be able to host Friday parent forums before the celebration assembly, but until that time, please come and see me if you need to talk.

Dojo and The Traffic Light:

Everyone has the right to come to school and thrive in their learning environment and a responsibility to ensure that they do not take this right away from anyone else. I always make this very clear to my pupils and reward those who go that extra mile and try their best at all times.

This is why I have introduced Class Dojo across the school as this is an excellent tool for all school staff to recognise when children uphold the school values and work hard. Each child has an avatar which can collect points for each of the school values with the addition of team work and high achievement. Once the class reach a target total of points, they will be rewarded with a class party. In assemblies, we use a school dojo and so the highest attendance and most celebration certificates can award children with class points. The highest scoring class each term will win an extra break with the Head Teacher. Class Dojo is an additional way to focus on the good, but the most important thing is that we teach children to do the right thing because it is what they should be doing and so we want children to make the correct choices not for the points, but so that they become good moral citizens.

We always aim to focus on the positive and look for the good and there is so much of this to see at Dr Walker's. This aside, we must address any negative behaviour as we cannot allow children to prevent others from thriving in their learning environment. Each class teacher has a traffic light system on their classroom wall which I have explained below.

The Traffic Light System:

Verbal warning- name moved alongside the yellow light.

Yellow light- 1 minute break/lunch silent time and then answers must be given to these questions - what did you do? Why? What should you do next time?

Amber light- break/ lunch time reflective writing which is a written version of the script from the yellow light. This is then filed in the teacher's behaviour file.

Red light- the child is removed from the class and sent to the Head Teacher's office. They complete the written report and their work is completed outside of their class. This is then logged in the Head Teacher's behaviour file.

If a child has three red lights in a term, then I will be contacting the parents and internally excluding the pupil.

There may be rare occasions when a child manifests behaviours which are a serious breach of the school's behaviour policy and in those situations we will have to exclude.

All behaviour reflections are an opportunity for the child to learn from the choices that they made and consider better options next time. The teaching of Smart Thinking enables children to review behaviour choices and the consequences so that they are able to Stop, Think, Choose and then Do the right thing.

We recognise that some pupils have social and emotional health needs and with the SENCo, we will provide everything we can to ensure that these children are able to cope in the main stream setting and therefore reduce the times when they may have an emotional crisis. Staff are also well trained with de-escalation scripts and behaviour management strategies and they will continue to be updated with these.

Well done to the Athletics Team:

I would like to say a big well done to all the children who took part in the Athletics Competition held at Ongar Leisure Centre. The Year 5 and 6 pupils did Dr Walker's proud by finishing in 2nd place which is a great achievement. Well done again.
Mr Watts

World Book Day

On Thursday 2nd March, it is World Book Day and so we would like the children to come dressed to school as their favourite book character. We will have a parade in the hall and there will be a prize for the best boy and girl costume. The children will also need to have prepared a short speech about who they have come dressed up as and a little bit about the personality of their chosen character and some of facts about them. The children will be given the opportunity to deliver their speeches throughout the day to their class. During school, the pupils will take part in writing crafts, reading activities and much more; also we will be hosting a Reading Tea at 2.30pm for you to come and read with your child in our hall and have a cup of tea.

Core Values Champions

Ella Rose Newcomb - Teamwork	John Cureton - Creativity
Presley Harris - Hard work	J'edine Orubo - Hard work
Joe Fisher - Helping others	Neo Egbokhan - Perseverance
Lois Donovan - Upholding Values	Phoebe Hussev - Upholding Values

Football Club Help Needed

Mr Amman who currently runs the Year 5 & 6 Football Club is looking for a volunteer parent to help him run the club on a Wednesday from 3:15 until 4:15 until Easter. We would like a parent to help alongside Mr Amman with a view to taking over the running of the club from September. If you are interested please contact the School Office.

Long Hair Must Be Tied Back at School

It has been brought to my attention that some pupils are not tying their long hair back. May we remind you that all pupils with long hair must have their hair tied back while in school - this applies to both girls and boys.

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 Thomas - Headteacher

Diary Dates

- World Book Day - Thursday 2nd March.
- Celebration Assemblies on Fridays at 2:30 - Proposed dates: Friday 24th March 2017 (Please be aware that these dates could change).
- Science Day - Friday 10th March
- Easter Holiday - Monday 3rd April to Tuesday 18th April - return to school on Wednesday 19th April.
- Non-pupil day on 18th April 2017.

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.