

# Dr Walker's C of E Primary School Newsletter

April 2017

[www.drwalkersfyfield.ik.org](http://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.

Welcome back to you all,

I am delighted to be leading your school this term and would like to work with you all to ensure that we have an outstanding learning environment and wonderful place to be here at Dr Walker's Primary School.

Whatever actions I carry out as a Head Teacher they are always driven by the benefits they will have to our pupils' education and well-being. I am passionate about the profession in which I work and care deeply about providing challenging and engaging lessons for the children as well as teaching them to be well rounded, good moral citizens.

We are still waiting for the Ofsted Inspection report, and I will inform you as soon as it becomes available. The inspection was very fair and accurate in its judgement and we are putting the development points into action immediately.

One of these areas of development is school attendance. Dr Walker's has a very high persistent absentee percentage which is a real concern and too many children are arriving late, after the start of the school day of 8:45am. I am closely monitoring this and several letters have been sent home to families whose child's attendance or punctuality have been flagged up as poor.

Please ensure that your child is on time and in school every day and if they are ill enough to warrant being absent from school, that you telephone the office at the beginning of the school day on each day of absence and then on your child's return that you have provided written confirmation of their absence. Please make an appointment to speak to me if you need support with getting your child to school every day and on time.

## **Gate Now Opens at 8:45**

The school gates will now open at 8:45 instead of 8:40 and pupils are now expected to be in school from 8:45. Pupils will be responding to marking at 8:45 every morning and receiving high quality feedback from their class teacher on individual targets. As this is a very valuable exercise, any children who miss this by not arriving at 8:45 will need to complete this activity during their break time.

## **Easter School and SATs**

I would like to congratulate Toby, Sophie, Jessica, Lilly, Hannah, Wiktorina and Harry for taking time out of their Easter holiday to attend SATs booster. They were excellent students and I was really impressed with their attitude towards their learning. Below, I have listed the timetable for SATs week.

### **SATs Week Timetable:**

Monday 8 May 2017 - English reading

Tuesday 9 May 2017 - English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: questions

- English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: spelling

Wednesday 10 May 2017 - Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic

- Mathematics Paper 2: reasoning

Thursday 11 May 2017 - Mathematics Paper 3: reasoning

On the morning of each day during SATs Week, we will be providing a SATs breakfast for our Year Six children at 8:15am. It is a lovely opportunity for the children to relax and chat with their peers before the tests begin and they really look forward to this special time together. I would like some parents to volunteer to help with this, so if you are available from 8:00am until 9am in the week of SATs, and would like to help cook the children's breakfasts, please come and see me.

## **School Dojo Winners:**

Last term Bees Class won the Dojo award and earned themselves an additional break time. This half term, the winning class will win a party with me. The Dojo is based on School Value Champions, attendance, uniform and general behaviour. It was a close competition last term, but some class' attendance let them down and as Bees have a better attendance average, they secured the win in the end. Congratulations Bees and good luck to all this half term!

## **Medical Appointments**

A significant number of children continue to be being collected from school between 2:30 and 3:15 for medical and dental appointments. Please try to make these appointments out of school hours as your child does miss learning time. If you are unable to do this you must bring evidence of the appointment to the School Office either before you go or the next morning following your appointment. **Early collections are recorded on your child's attendance record.**

## **Celebration Assemblies**

Celebration assembly will now be held every week on Fridays at 2:45 until 3:15.

**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**

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**Diary Dates**

- Celebration Assemblies - every Friday at 2:45
- Class Photos - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May
- 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> May - SATs
- Half Term - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

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**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.