



Northfield Manor News

September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back everyone and I hope you had a wonderful summer. I'd particularly like to welcome our new parents; we look forward to working with you to ensure your child gets the best education possible. Our teachers and teaching assistants have been busy planning lots of interesting and exciting learning activities and trips for the children which I am sure they will enjoy. We have also been working on making the learning environment of the classrooms much better. The classrooms have had a new look so that they are more 'neutral'. There is a good deal of evidence to suggest that we can easily overload the physical environment with too much 'stuff' and this can be a distraction when trying to learn. So, you may notice when you visit that there is less colour and fewer items on the walls – this is not because we are doing less, just doing it better. The exception to this neutral look is the reading corners which now stand out beautifully – reading is still a top priority for our school. We have also replaced all the lighting in the school so that classrooms are now better illuminated and the light less harsh than with the old strip lighting. The system is also much more efficient so we should also be able to make some significant savings on our electricity bills. Years 1 and 6 have had new interactive boards and we will continue to replace the old boards on a rolling programme over the next few years. Year 6 also have new ipads – we will let you know more about how the ipads will be used to enhance the learning of the older children as we go through the year. We continue to want to share how we teach with you so our Inspire sessions will start again shortly. A new school year brings a new school development plan. Reading and ensuring good outcomes for disadvantaged children remain priorities this year – we have made big improvements in these areas (see 2018-19 data on the school website) however we don't want to stop focussing on issues that are fundamental to our school's success. We will also add a couple of other priorities to the plan: Writing and the development of our curriculum. We will be thrashing out the detail of our school development plan over the next few weeks and I will let you know when it is ready to view should you wish to.

So, the children are already settled into their new classrooms and are busy starting fresh topics and new exercise books. We have shared an assembly on how we can feel at the start of a new school year - you might remember these feelings yourself. Many children bounce their way to school, excited at the prospect of new challenges and experiences. Others may feel a mix of excitement and nervousness. We have talked about how a few nerves or butterflies in the tummy are normal, and that there are things that we can do to reassure ourselves. We encourage the children to support and help each other, and to talk about worries with their teachers. Worries are often small things, but they can grow and become real problems if they are not shared and dealt with. Should you have any concerns as a parent please come and talk - staff are available at the end of every day and like to address any issues quickly however small. We want our children to be happy. Happy children learn. We know that our partnership is vital in getting the best outcomes for our children. Thank you for all your support to date and all the support I know that we will have as we move into another successful year for our school.

Mrs Pennington

LEARNING CHALLENGES

Reception: How am I the same as other people? How am I different to other people? As the children learn about their new school and friends, they will be exploring what makes them special by sharing information about their families, traditions and culture. The children will also be visiting a Buddhist temple on Thursday 3rd October to help them learn about different religions and faiths that we might share in our community.

ATTENDANCE

We will start our attendance figures after our full week.

Year One: How has our local area changed over time? On Wednesday 25th September, the children will be visiting Selly Manor Museum to explore how Bournville has changed over time and make comparisons between the past and present. They will then learn about the Cadbury family to identify the changes and impact they made in our local area and community.

Year Two: How can we tell the story of fire creatively? The children will be discovering the events of the Great Fire of London in 1666 by traveling back in time to re-enact the great fire. The children will be using maps to identify where London is as well as recap the countries of the United Kingdom. They will also read extracts from the diary of Samuel Pepys to explore the cause and impact of the fire.

Year Three: How can we make an educational film about the stone age? The children will be immersed in the life of the stone age. Their journey will begin next week when they visit Sarehole Mill where they will learn about the lives of people during stone age Britain. When they have completed their research, they will be looking at suitable APPs to showcase what they have learnt.

Year 4: How can we showcase what we know about the Ancient Greeks? The challenge will begin with a workshop in schools where they will learn about democracy, religion, places, people and daily life in Ancient Greece. They will experience the Olympics through PE, art through looking at the pottery of the time, and in English they will study myths and legends. This will culminate in a showcase to parents – details to follow!

Year 5: How can we help people who have been affected by a catastrophe? Through this challenge the children will learn about catastrophe's close to home as well on the other side of the world. They will study the geography of natural disasters and take part in a drama workshop based on experiencing a volcano. They will also look at local issues such as homeless, and what can be done to prevent it as well as support people who find themselves needing help.

Year 6: How can we remember our fallen heroes? The children will learn about World War Two when they visit Cannock Chase museum next week. They will discover how the war started progressed and eventually ended. They will focus on specific battles such as Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain. They will continue their close relationship with Castlecroft Nursing Home by organising a memorial service there – an emotional and heart-warming event not to be missed.

Miss Holden and Mrs McCarty

Keeping Children Safe in Education

As we are into a new academic year just a few safeguarding reminders:

If you are going to allow your child to walk home alone after school, we will need written consent from a parent/guardian for this to be authorised.

Punctuality and attendance are also a safeguarding matter in our school. We have a 'duty of care' to know where the children are if they are not in school. Any lateness or unauthorised absences will be monitored, and safeguarding measures put in place accordingly.

Adrain Rawsthorne our Education Welfare Officer will now be in school one day a week to support with attendance and punctuality. He will be doing a late gate, attendance clinics, meetings and making home visits to children of whose absence is unknown or a concern.

If you have any safeguarding or child protection concerns, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me for any advice or support.

Mrs Sheldon



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CERTIFICATE WINNERS	OTHER INFORMATION REMINDERS - DATES
<p>There will be no certificates this week.</p> <p>Next week the certificate will be awarded for being Ready, Respectful and Safe.</p>	<p>11th September- 3NS visit Sarehole Mill</p> <p>11th September – Year 4 portals to the Past Workshop</p> <p>11th September-Year 3 Inspire workshop-Reading</p> <p>12th September- 3MB visit to Sarehole Mill</p> <p>13th September- Reception visit Cannon Hill Park & Nature Centre Year 6 Cannock Chase visit</p> <p>17th September – Year 2 visit to Selly Manor Year 3 Inspire Workshop</p> <p>17th September-New to year 6 parents meeting</p> <p>18th September- Year 5 Inspire workshop</p> <p>19th September- Year 1 Inspire workshop</p> <p>25th September- Year 1 visit Selly Manor</p> <p>23rd September- Year 6 reading workshop</p> <p>24th September- Reception phonics workshop</p> <p>25th September-Year 4 Inspire workshop</p> <p>26th September- Year 2 Inspire Workshop</p> <p>27th September – ADHD coffee morning</p> <p>30th September-Year 6 Inspire Workshop –Maths</p> <p>1st October – Parent Forum</p> <p>3rd October – SEN Coffee Morning</p> <p>4th October – James Dasaolu GB athlete visiting school</p> <p>10th October- Rubicon Skateboarding Coach in school</p> <p>16th October-Reception and Year 1 Inspire Workshop</p> <p>17th October – ASD coffee morning</p> <p>18th October-Year 5 learning challenge workshop</p> <p>24th October – Children Break up</p> <p>25th October- Teacher training</p> <p>Clubs</p> <p>Mr Pacquiao will no longer be running the sports club as he has moved on from our sports coach provider 'Believe and Achieve'. We would like to welcome Mr Brown who will be taking his place. The first half term will be Gymnastics and will start on Monday 9th September.</p> <p>Spanish Club will start on Wednesday 11th September, if you have reserved a place, your child should have received a letter of confirmation.</p> <p>Aston Villa football club will start on Wednesday 11th September.</p> <p>Teachers will be starting their clubs in the next few weeks. Letters will be sent out shortly. These clubs will be Jewellery Making, Dance, Street Dance, Eco Club, Stage-by Stage and Netball.</p> <p>Year 7 School Places Applications</p> <p>Online applications opened on 2 September 2019 for Year 7 entry in September 2020. Applications can be made online through the Birmingham City Council website www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions until the deadline of 31 October 2019. Parents of Year 6 pupils need to be aware of the</p>

deadline. All the information they will need is available our website www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. More advice and support is also available from Children's Services on 0121 303 1888.

Special Events-

Sports for Champions Day- Friday 4th October 2019. Jason Dasaolu, a team GB athlete, will be visiting our school for the day. The children will be taking part in fitness training.

National Fitness Day- Wednesday 25th September 2019. All children (and teachers) will be running a mile.