



King Athelstan Primary School

Newsletter 3

Tuesday 12th November 2013

Welcome back after half term! The children have settled into their new themes quickly and are now hard at work. What a great start! Parent Overviews will be going out in the next few days - look out for them in your child's book bag. We are looking forward to seeing you at Parent/Carer Consultations this week. Please make sure that you have made an appointment to come and see your child's teacher and find out how they are getting on.

A hugely successful "Open Hour"!

It was great to see so many families enjoying the school "Open Hour" last week. An impressive 82 families were represented at the event. The children loved having their 'grown-up' in school with them - in fact we all did! If you attended this event please make sure you return the questionnaire to school. We are constantly trying to build on our successes, and improve the school, so your feedback is essential. If you were unable to attend on this occasion then please don't worry - we are already planning another event for the Spring term. Watch this space for dates...

Autumn Term Dates:

Tuesday 12 th Nov	Y5/Y6 Annual Cross Country Competition	
	Parent/Carer Evening (3.30-5.30pm)	
Thursday 14 th Nov	Parent/Carer Evening (5.00-7.00pm)	
Friday 15 th Nov	Children in Need - wear spots to school	
Thursday 28 th Nov	Governor Visit Day	
	Parent/Carer Forum-All welcome (2pm)	
	School Dinner Taster session (3pm) - All welcome	
Friday 29 th Nov	Michelangelo Cake Sale	
Tuesday 3 rd Dec	Y5/Y6 Athletics Competition	
Friday 6 th Dec	PCSA Christmas Fair	
Tuesday 10 th Dec	Y5 Ice Skating	
Wednesday 11 th Dec	EYFS and KS1 Santa Visit	
	Y6 Ice Skating	
Friday 20 th Dec	School Christmas Dinner	
	End of Term (2.30pm)	
23 th Dec - 3 rd Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	
Mon 6 th Jan	Start of Term - INSET	
Tuesday 7 th Jan	Children back to school	
Tues 14 th Jan	PCSA meeting, venue TBC	

Polite Reminders

Crossing Roads safely:-

I would like to welcome Mr Andy Garside, our new crossing patrol officer, and thank him for the excellent job he is doing getting the children across the busy Villiers Road safely. During these darker winter months it is essential that you remind your children to wait before crossing. We want every child to be safe as they come to and from school.

Homework:- Please can you make sure that your children are encouraged to do their weekly homework and bring it in on time. They are expected to do this work with a certain level of independence. Please speak to your child's class teacher during Parent/Carer Consultations if you are having any problems.

The Learning Room:- Please be reassured that the children are not sent to the Learning Room as a punishment. They are sent to encourage them to complete unfinished work - this may be homework or classwork. The Learning Room is an important additional learning opportunity which we provide to ensure that the children share the responsibility for the progress they make.

Safeguarding your Children

Thank you to all the parents and carers that have been joining us on our trips and helping out in school recently. If you are thinking of helping out at any point this year you will need to collect a List 99 form from the school office, complete it and return it at least 10 days before the trip is due to depart. If you are a regular helper please can you complete a DBS form (previously CRB) which is then valid for three years. As a school we take the safety of your children very seriously. Please be aware, if staff are unable to get the correct number of 'cleared' parents and carers to support with a planned trip the trip would have to be cancelled. Obviously we want to avoid this at all costs.



For a £1 donation, all children are invited to come into school wearing spots - Spotty clothes and face paint - get creative! In EYFS children will be making & decorating dotty cakes & biscuits during class time, to sell at a cake sale after school. If any parents/carers would like to donate extra cakes or help in any way, please speak to Siobhan (Rousseau teacher) or Kayleigh (Cezanne teacher). **Remember to bring money to buy cakes!**

Parent/Carer Forum - Have your say!
Thursday 28th November at 2pm

All parents and carers are invited to add to the agenda for discussion at the next Parent/Carer Forum. Please send your agenda items into the school office before Tuesday 26th November. Many thanks - we look forward to seeing you there.



Happy Lunchtimes

We are delighted by the new doorways that are joining the small and large halls. The children are now enjoying a quieter and smoother lunch service which can accommodate our ever growing school. As the winter months take hold you may be considering taking up school hot dinners. To help you make this decision we have organised a taster session on **Thursday 28th November at 3pm** after the Parent/Carer forum meeting. Please pop into the small hall to taste the high quality food we have on offer.

- For those of you who are sending your children with packed lunches, please ensure your child brings a healthy, manageable lunch to school. Check out this link for ideas: www.netmums.com/family-food/food-for-kids/lunchbox-idea

If your child is in KS2 they will be on a later lunch sitting - if you know they get hungry during the morning please send them in with a piece of fruit to eat during morning break time. It will keep them going until lunch.

Free School Meals (FSM) - Please remember that children are entitled to free school meals if the income for the household is less than £16,190 and you do not receive working tax credit. For more information speak to staff in the school office. All children who have had free school meals in the last six years are entitled to take part in an extra-curricular club for free. For more information please speak to the school office. Remember, if you are entitled to FSM you don't have to actually take up the meals however by being registered, you will make a significant difference to the school budget as it triggers out Pupil Premium funding - nearly £900 per pupil. That makes a big difference to the opportunities/support we can offer!

Class Assemblies Are Back!!

Thank you to Matisse and Da Vinci for kicking off this year's class assemblies with such gusto. The next assembly will be Hockney's on Thursday 28th November at 8.50am.

Future Assemblies:



Thursday 16th January - Dali

Thursday 30th January - Van Gogh

Thursday 13th February - Monet

Thursday 27th March - Magritte

Thursday 1st May - Michelangelo

Thursday 5th June - Picasso

Thursday 3rd July - O'Keefe

Thursday 10th July - Kandinsky



IMPORTANT

Excellent E-Safety Briefing for Parents and Carers

Just before half term we had a visiting consultant, Peter Cowley, come and speak to parents and carers about the safe use of mobile technology. It was such a fantastic, informative evening that we plan to run it again so that more of our school community can benefit from Peter's knowledge and experience. It is essential that we, as the adults in our children's lives, take the responsibility for making sure that they have safe access to all mobile technologies. We plan to run the next session in the morning with a crèche to make it easier for parents to attend.

Working Together To Keep Your Children Safe!



Could you Live Without Maths?

*In a world without maths
 There'd be no maps to plot
 No pyramids to climb,
 No shapes to spot.*



*There'd be no money to spend
 To trains on time
 No graphs to shade,
 No rhythm to rhyme.*



*There'd be no bills to pay
 No roads to plan
 In a world without maths
 We'd all be in a jam!*



Andrew Collett

Please talk to your children about the maths that you do every day: at home, at work perhaps even for pleasure!

Great Maths Questions...

This year we are focusing on becoming mathematicians, helping the children see that maths is an integral part of everything that we do. Last week Mrs Fairweather held an assembly for the junior children thinking about how maths surrounds us. The children were encouraged to think up 'big' mathematical questions - they were all inspired! Here is a taster of some of their ideas:

'How many litres of water are there in the Pacific ocean?'

'How much grass is there in the school?' Olivia, Y5

'How many human cells are there in our school today?' Robbie, Y6

'How many leaves are on the trees in the Junior playground?' Noah, Y3

'How long would it take for the big puddle in the playground to disappear?' Cherry, Y2

'How many bricks are there in the huge wall in the infant playground?' Kyle, Y4

These examples are just a fraction of what the children have come up with. We plan to find the answers to these and many more mathematical questions during a maths day later in the year. Feel free to tackle any of these 'big' questions at home - please send your solutions into school to be celebrated.