



## HEADTEACHER COMMENT

There has been a great deal of talk in the media recently about testing for 7 and 11 year olds (SATS). I would just like to reassure parents that we do everything we can to make them as stress free as possible. The most important way we can do that is to prepare the children well. The children in Year 6 will be sitting the SATs next week and I know from over twenty years as a primary school head that they thoroughly enjoy the week, not only because they are completely ready for them but also they have lots of positive experiences throughout the week. As for the children sitting the SATs in Year 2 the same applies but actually they are carried out in conditions that they have been used to all year round. We will always try to limit the effect on the children to make their school experience both enjoyable and rewarding.

## ATTENDANCE (W.B. 24.04.17) (REMEMBER ABSENCE LINE: 675 4525)

Class	Lates	%Attend	Days Lost		Class	Lates	%Attend	Days Lost
RSBS Otters	0	60	10		RSBS Deer	1	97.5	1
RA	0	99.67	0.5		3B	1	95.33	7
RM	2	98.67	2		3S	1	97.33	4
1B	0	94.33	8.5		4B	0	95.67	6.5
1F	1	95	7.5		4T	0	98.67	2
2B	1	97.67	3.5		5A	0	95.67	6.5
2P	0	98.33	2.5		5H	2	98.62	2
					6H	0	93.67	9.5
Total	11	96.48	76		6S	2	98	3

Well done to RA and 4T who won the pandas for the last week of last term. Thank you for your support, we are now at 96.16% and I remain hopeful that with your help we will reach our target of 97%.

## LEAVE IN TERM TIME

I was recently at a Local Authority briefing and it was made clear that schools need to tighten up their procedures for leave in term time. If you plan to take your child out of school then you must request a leave in term time request form from the school office. However the recent letter that was posted to all parents clearly states:

***“You may be aware that Head Teachers may not authorise leave during term time except where the circumstances are exceptional. If your child takes leave that has not been authorised by the Head Teacher, it will result in the absence being recorded as unauthorised and legal action may be taken.”***

Please remember that parental illness, going shopping, visiting family, truancy, not wanting to go to school, alleged bullying (speak to school immediately to resolve the issue) are not acceptable reasons to be absent. All of these will be recorded as unauthorised absence, including if your child arrives at school after the close of registration.

Legal action that may be taken include:

- **Issuing penalty notices:** Each parent receives a penalty notice for each child who has unauthorised absence. The penalty is £60 or £120 depending on how soon payment is made. So, if there are two parents and two children the total penalties could be up to £480. Failure to pay may result in prosecution.
- **Taking parents to court for unauthorised absence:** Education Act 1996 Section 444(1) - court can fine each parent up to £1000 per child, order payment of prosecution costs and/or impose a Parenting Order.
- **Taking parents to court for persistent unauthorised absence:** Education Act 1996 Section 444(1A) - court can fine each parent up to £2,500 per child, order payment of the prosecution costs, impose a Parenting Order and/or sentence you to a period of imprisonment of up to 3 months.

## NATIONAL TESTS

As I said overleaf, the children in Year 6 will start their end of Key Stage tests on Monday 8th May which will obviously mean that they need to have good attendance and punctuality during this week. Tests cannot be taken at any other time. These tests are essential in establishing the children's future in their secondary school. Below is the timetable for the week.

Monday 8th May	Tuesday 9th May	Wednesday 10th May	Thursday 11th May
English reading test, reading booklet and associated answer booklet.	English grammar, punctuation and spelling test, Paper 1, short answer questions.	Mathematics, Paper 1 arithmetic test.	Mathematics, Paper 3, reasoning.
	English grammar, punctuation and spelling test, Paper 2, spelling	Mathematics, Paper 2 reasoning.	

## LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you so much to all those who supported our Book Fair Event and congratulations to our 5 Raffle Ticket winners. Reminder that the library is now open till 4pm after school for your child to borrow and return books. If they are not already a member then just come along and sign them up.

Please use the front office entrance, many thanks ~ Tracy Haddock.

## FIDGET SPINNERS IMPORTANT

The latest craze that has hit the shops seems to be fidget toys, as you will no doubt know. When I first saw children with these they seemed to be harmless but unfortunately they have become a major distraction and are causing issues in and out of class. Therefore I am now saying that they should be left at home, this is in line with the school's policy about bring toys to school.

## HSBC BANK (KS2)

The next visit from Miss Howes will be on 15th May then on 19th June, 3rd July and 17th July. Thank you.

## SPORTS DAYS

We now have the dates for this year's sports days:

- Years 1 & 2 Tuesday 4th July 9.30am – 11am
- Nursery & Reception Thursday 6th July 9.30am – 11am
- Years 3 & 4 Friday 7th July 9.30am – 11am
- Years 5 & 6 Monday 10th July 1.30pm – 3pm

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### MAY

- Week commencing 8th May - KS2 Year 6 SATS week
- Week commencing 15th May - Year 2 SATs week
- Week commencing 22nd May - My Money Week
- Friday 26th May - End of Half Term – children break up

### JUNE

- Monday 5th June - Children return to school
- Week commencing 12th June - Year 1 Phonics Screening
- Wednesday 15th June - Induction meeting for new parents 10am & 6pm
- Thursday 29th June - Summer Music concert

### JULY

- Tuesday 18th July - Year 6 Leaver's performance at 7pm
- Thursday 20th July - Year 6 Prom 4.30pm – 7pm
- Friday 21st July - End of Summer Term – children break up at 1.30pm

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

***“Freedom is born of self-discipline. No individual, no nation, can achieve or maintain liberty without self-control. The undisciplined man is a slave to his own weaknesses.”*** Alan Valentine

Many thanks  
Mr. S. Dix  
(Headmaster)