**Newsletter**

17th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

**Newsletter**

Apologies for the late arrival of this newsletter, this was due to staff sickness.

Huge thanks to everyone that helped us to make such a success of supporting Children in Need. It was super to see so many children dressed up for the occasion as well as the great number of entries into the various competitions. Prizes were presented in assembly this morning.  We raised over £230, this is amazing, thank you.

Neave (Meerkats) won the ‘Place a Spot on Pudsey’ competition. While our winners in the writing competition were: Nina (Huskies), Bella (Penguins), William (Meerkats) as well as Sapphy and Isaac (Kangaroos).  The colouring champions were: Trey (Huskies), Fen (Penguins), Emmy (Kangaroos), Sianna (Meerkats), and Indie (Tigers).

**Homework Expectations**

I write to explain how we are endeavouring to bring a more consistent and progressive approach to the setting of homework for the children throughout the school.

We believe homework is important for a number of reasons including: consolidating and reinforcing children’s knowledge, skills and understanding, showing that learning takes place in situations and locations beyond school, enabling pupils to develop independence with their learning, encouraging self-motivation and self-discipline as well as assisting in preparing pupils for the requirements of secondary school.

**Guidelines on the type and amount of homework to be set**

Homework does not just mean a series of formal exercises to be carried out by children without help from adults. It is the involvement of parents/carers in joint activities which is most valuable in promoting children’s learning.

Homework will be adapted where appropriate to take account of individual children’s needs and might include:

* Playing maths games
* Learning multiplication times tables
* Finding out information
* Reading
* Preparing oral and other presentations
* More traditional written assignments
* Learning spellings

**Recommended time allocations**

We recognise that children need time for other activities after school such as music/swimming lessons and other clubs and that they need some time which is undirected for free play and pursuing their own hobbies and interests.

The recommended time allocations (based on a five-day week) below give guidelines for time to be spent by each year group. Actual time taken will vary for each child (some children may concentrate for shorter periods) and we really don’t want anyone flogging the proverbial ‘dead-horse’.

Years 1 and 2     30 minutes per week maximum

Years 3 and 4     1 hour per week maximum

Year 5 and 6      1 and a half hours per week maximum

**Reading**

Reading at home is recommended for all children on a daily basis. This is usually done in addition to the ‘set’ homework.  Children should be encouraged to read on their own or with others for at least 10 minutes a day for Key Stage 1 and 20 minutes for Key Stage.

**Parents/carers**

We ask that parents/carers provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which children can do their homework alone or together with an adult and make it clear that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning.

**Expectations**

Although homework is not currently a legal requirement for primary schools, it is expected that all homework will be completed on time.

For ease of consistency for parents with children in different classes, we will set homework in all classes on a Friday and expect it to be submitted by the following Friday. Any marked homework should be returned to children by the following Friday.

The class teacher should be contacted if children are experiencing any difficulties with their homework and help may be given if appropriate.

The following is a rough guide as to the type of homework that may be set in the various year groups throughout the school:

YR reading and see the Year R newsletter for other optional activities;

Y1 reading, spellings and Numbots;

Y2 reading, spellings and maths;

Y3 reading, spellings and maths (with occasional grammar);

Y4 reading, spellings, maths and grammar;

Y5 reading, spellings, maths and grammar;

Y6 reading, spellings, maths and grammar.

Optional topic work may be set as appropriate.

**Plea for Mobile Phone**

In terms of equipping our school more thoroughly. We would dearly love to have a couple of mobile phones that belong exclusively to the school for use when the children are on school trips including residentials. To this end, I am wondering if there are any folk in our community who have a pretty up to date Smartphone that has reached the end of its contract. I am aware that this is often the case with phones used by big businesses - that are always endeavouring to keep their employees equipped with the latest model for communication purposes. If this applies to you and you are able to donate a handset to us, which we can ‘wipe’ and reconfigure as a school PAYG phone please do contact me via the school office.

**Piano Concert**

If your child currently has piano or keyboard lessons, you are invited to come and see how they are getting on at a concert at 2pm on Tuesday 28th November.

**Art Aprons**

In order for our children to fully enjoy and experiment with different art techniques without making too much of a mess of their own clothes, we’d like to update our aprons. If you have any old adult shirts or t-shirts, please donate them to the school office and we’ll make sure they are distributed to the classes.

**Non Uniform Day**

Please note that **Thursday 23rd November** is a non-uniform day and the children are asked to bring in a bottle and sweets for the Christmas Fair tombola's.

**Absolute Sport**

Absolute Sport will be running a Christmas Activity Camp from Monday 18th December to Friday 21st December and if you would like to book a space please visit their website www.absolutesport.org. They are still part of the HAF scheme so if your child is entitled to free school meals do please ring the office to obtain a HAF code. If you already have your code you can book via haf@westsussex.gov.uk

Thank you.

Mr Bird

**Dates for your diary**

Non-Uniform Day in support Thursday 23rd November of the Christmas Fair

Piano Concert Tuesday 28th November @ 2pm

Christmas Fair Friday 1st December

Festive Family Fun with the Sidlesham Association Wednesday 6th December @ 6pm (at Sidlesham Memorial Ground)

Christmas Jumper Day Thursday 7th December

Nativity Tuesday 12th December @ 2pm, Wednesday 13th December @ 10am and 5pm

Christmas Lunch Thursday 14th December

Last day Friday 15th December

INSET Day Tuesday 2nd January

First day of term Wednesday 3rd January

Young Voices Concert Wednesday 17th January