



# *Streetsbrook Infant & Early Years Academy*

## *Year 1 Newsletter - January 2018*

The staff and I would like to thank you all for the many Christmas cards, gifts and good wishes received at the end of last term and welcome you to this new school term by wishing you a very happy and healthy new year.

<b>CONTENTS</b>
Spring Term, 1 <sup>st</sup> half-term: The Whole World In Our Hands
DVD of the KS1 Christmas Performance
Car Parking in Ralph Road & Working to Keep our Children Safe
Riding of Bicycles/Scooters
Attendance
Parental Help
Winter Clothing
Head Lice
Voluntary Contributions
Student Placements
Drink Bottles & Cool Milk Scheme
This Term's Diary Dates
Parent Overview



## Spring Term Topic, 1<sup>st</sup> half-term: 'The Whole World in our Hands'

Our first topic this term is about 'The Whole World in our Hands'

The children have discussed the topic with their teachers and have given their own ideas of the work/activities they would like to include. These include the following:

1D, Miss Dorow's class	1S, Mrs Smith's class
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To find out how different materials are made and which can be recycled</li><li>• To find out what animals eat and where their food comes from</li><li>• To find out how we can help different animals</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To find out what animals are endangered</li><li>• To learn why we need to care for our world</li><li>• To find out how we recycle plastics</li><li>• To find out why animals eat different foods</li></ul>



## DVD of the Performance of 'Baubles' – Years 1 and 2

The children's performance was recorded by our ICT Technician, Mr John Dainty, this DVD is available for you to purchase at a cost of £10.00. If you would like a copy, please make your payments via ParentPay in the usual way. There is no need to send a reply slip; your payment on ParentPay will indicate what you are purchasing. If you have more than one child in school, you must pay on each child's account so that we can determine which DVD you require. You can purchase more than one copy of each DVD. Deadline for orders is Friday 26 January 2018. If you are experiencing any problems with ParentPay, please contact the school office.

## Car Parking in Ralph Road

If you travel to school by car, please be considerate when parking as we wish to maintain good relations with our neighbours. Parents should not park on the zig-zag lines, the pavement or block resident's drive-ways. Your complete co-operation in this would be very much appreciated.

## Working to Keep our Children Safe in 2018

A New Year, and what better time to remind ourselves of an important road safety issue. A bright banner has been displayed outside school and we are re-launching a campaign to make everyone aware that outside Streetsbrook we advocate:

- **A Voluntary 20mph Zone**
- **A Voluntary No Turning Zone** (Please use areas away from the school vicinity to turn safely)



These two simple measures are proven to reduce the chances of an accident occurring and should only add seconds to your journey.

## Riding of Bicycles and Scooters



We are pleased to encourage the children to walk or cycle to school, but would like to remind you of the procedure for using bicycles or scooters on school premises. For the safety of everyone, in order to avoid accidents, all children must dismount at the school gates and push their scooters and bicycles to the area where they are kept during the day. Similarly, at the end of the day, the children are to push their bicycles/scooters outside the school gates before riding them. The children are regularly reminded about this in school.

## Attendance

We are only too aware that at this time of year, a number of 'bugs' are usually caught by the children which can affect their attendance. However, with the exception of genuine illness it is crucial for your child's education that they attend school every day.

Below is a table reporting the attendance of each class for the Autumn Term.

CLASS	% ATTENDANCE
Nursery AM	93.8
Nursery PM	95.8
R1	95.4
R2	96.9
1D	98.3
1S	96.2
2A	96.9
2F	97.1

Attendance figures are analysed by the school and the Local Authority on a regular basis. Attendance is also inspected by Ofsted. Therefore the Governors and staff would appreciate your commitment in ensuring our attendance is as good as it possibly can be. In order for attendance to be judged by Ofsted as 'high', the overall attendance of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 has to be above 95.7%. Well done to Year 1 for exceeding this requirement!

In line with our Attendance Policy, we will be soon be sending out Attendance letters as part of our commitment to working with you and your child in raising attendance. Attending school regularly and on time has a positive impact on learning, progress and therefore the best life chances for pupils. Research shows that attendance and punctuality are the single most important factors in school success.

## Parental Help

We continue to ask for parental help during the day and welcome mums, dads, grandparents or childminders, so if you are able to help, we really do value your support. A DBS Check is required (please see the school office for further information).

## Winter Clothing

With the cold weather now with us we would very much appreciate your support in helping the children to be appropriately dressed for outdoor activities.

- please ensure your son/daughter brings a warm coat to school, preferably with a hood, as they still love to take part in outdoor activities at this time of the year and we want to ensure they remain warm
- gloves/mittens are perfect for outdoor play, but most children find it easier to manage mittens. Please bear this in mind and help to make your son/daughter's life easier!
- wellington boots are desirable on wet and snowy days

In order to try to minimise lost items please ensure everything is labelled appropriately with your son/daughter's name. Thank you for your help with this matter.

## Head Lice

At the end of last term, we were informed of a couple of cases of head lice and I am grateful to the parents of these children concerned for notifying us of this. In order to try and keep this problem to a minimum we should be grateful if parents would act upon the following advice:

- Children should be encouraged to brush or comb their hair several times each day. This will damage any lice present and inhibit the laying of eggs (nits)
- It is helpful if parents examine their children's hair at least weekly. Nits are found firmly glued to the hair shaft, usually very near the scalp. They should not be confused with dandruff, which is freely moving
- If everyone examines and treats their child if infected, we can eradicate this problem
- Consult your local pharmacy for the current recommended treatment.

## Voluntary Contributions

Education in the UK is funded by the state for all children unless parents choose to opt out of the system and make alternative arrangements for their child. The level of funding provided by the state ensures a basic level of education is available to all. At Streetsbrook, we know that children benefit hugely from an education that is enriched by a range of practical activities, including welcoming visitors into school and weekly swimming lessons. However, these additional activities cost money over and above the level of funding provided by the state. This term, voluntary contributions will be covering the cost of our animal day, Book Day, Science Week and a range of enrichment activities for Design & Technology and weekly swimming lessons.

A very sincere thank you to all of you who continue to support the school by paying these contributions. Without your continued support school would not be able to fund these additional activities. The amounts for the spring term are £1.50 weekly, £10.50 for this first half term and £7.50 for the second half term, or should you choose to pay the term in full £18.00.

Payments can be made via ParentPay in the usual way (please choose the appropriate option you are paying). If you are experiencing any problems with ParentPay, please contact the school office.

## Student Placements

This half-term we welcome Miss Hill into Class 1S and Miss White into class 1D. Both are PGCE students from Birmingham City University. Please join us in welcoming them to the team.

## Drinks Bottles

Please may we remind parents that children require a named water bottle in school. Children may re-fill their bottles throughout the day using the water dispensers located around school.

## Cool Milk Scheme

If you have not already joined this scheme and you would like your child to start having milk at school, you need to register with Cool Milk. You can register on line [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) or by phone 0800 142 2972.

Thank you for your on-going support



Mrs L Minter, Headteacher

G:\LETTERS TO PARENTS\SPRING\2018\January 2018 - YEAR 1.doc