

September '19 Newsletter

RAPS



Our wonderful Elmer Elephant is in the Bridges Shopping Centre

A big welcome back to everyone, especially to all our new starters in the Foundation Stage and other new pupils, throughout the school.

Staff: We have no new staff this year, first time in many years!

Inset Day School will be closed on **Friday 25th October** leading up to ½ term.

Important Dates:

23 rd , 24 th Sept	As part of Recycling Week, school will be launching a whole school project.
Fri 27 th Sept	MacMillan Coffee Morning-Join us for a cuppa and cake, remember to bring plenty of £! Parents am (donations), Pupils pm (50p cake, 20p drink please ensure pupils have change)
w.c. 30 th Sept	Harvest Festival- Donations to Our School Local Charity for 19-20: Food Bank
w.c. 1 st Oct	Walk to School Month – make a big effort to increase your fitness and reduce congestion.
Thur 10 th Oct	Bus Book arrives at school (replacing the book fair) World Mental Health Day
Thurs 17 th Oct	Whole School Nasal Flu Drops
Mon 21 st Oct	Whole School Parents Afternoon / Evening (1.50pm – 7pm)
Thur 24 th Oct	School Disco: Halloween Theme 3.45-5.15 (£1.50+ money for sweets, drinks, hot dogs) Break up Thursday for Inset Day and Half Term. Note: All KS2 pupils have a project for over the half term holiday
Mon 4 th Nov	Return to School Poppies and various related gifts on sale (£ raised for Poppy Appeal)
Mon 11 th Nov	Remembrance Day service in school Anti Bullying week (Mon off timetable, Anti Bullying production)
Fri 15 th Nov	Children In Need Day- cakes and biscuits on sale
w.c. 25 th Nov	Assessment Week
Thurs 28 th Nov	Photographer visits Nursery
Fri 29 th Nov	Part 1: Whole School BIG DRAW project (pm)
Thurs 5 th Dec	Photographer: Rec-Y6
Wed 11 th Dec	KS1 Christmas Performance 9.30/2.30
Fri 13 th Dec	Nursery/ Reception (EY) Christmas Performance 9.30/2.30
Wed 18 th Dec	KS2 Carol Service 2.15
Thurs 19 th Dec	Christmas Day (Lunch, Santa, Games, Disco)
Fri 20 th Dec	KS2 Carol Service 9.15 2.30pm School Breaks Up
Tues 7 th Jan	Return to School 8.55am.

Nursery Children: A message from Nursery Staff to say thank you for all the parental support whilst settling in the new nursery starters.

Congratulations: Congratulations to all our school for achieving the Sunderland Silver Well Being Charter Mark.

Charities:

Last Year we were so proud to raise £3,393.90 for our home charity: Alzheimer's Society.

We also donated to: MacMillan £746.72, Kerala Floods £300. Children in Need £475. Indonesia Tsunami £200. Red Nose Day £366.15. Youth for Christ £100. Mozambique Crisis Aid £200. Harry's Giant Pledge £500.

The School Council have met and discussed which 'Home' charity would benefit from our support this year. The children voted for supporting The Local Food Bank: we are intending to encourage our school community to donate anytime they wish via our school prefects on the yard. The children have also voted to support Cancer Trust.

We will also be supporting, The Macmillan Coffee Morning (Sept), Local Food Bank (Harvest- Oct), Children in Need (Nov), Poppy Appeal (Nov), Sport Relief (March), Race for Life- Cancer Research (June), School Sponsored Event (a range of charities home and abroad- July).

Our current balance to support various charities stands at £1529.58. That money is banked in the school bank account, ready for the school council to decide which local and international charities they would like to support. The children are set to respond to disasters around the world by donating a little something from ourselves.

KS2 Fruit: KS2 pupils are reminded they are allowed to bring fruit for a morning break snack.

Attendance: As you are aware the Government have raised the expectations for children's attendance. The National Average is around 96.1%+ and any child falling below 90% is classed as a Persistent Absentee (PA).

In order to support parents monitoring their own child's attendance, once again we will be issuing registration certificates at the end of each half term, monthly for those children already identified.

Obviously it would not be expected for a parent to request Leave of Absence under any circumstance if their child has previous or current poor attendance.

Could I also reiterate- routine dentist appointments SHOULD NOT be taken in school-time. Any other appointments, where possible, to be made out of school hours. **Please feel free to discuss any attendance issues with me.**

School Visits: Often when children are on a whole day school visit, they are asked to bring a packed lunch. Children usually wish to bring their own packed lunch from home, as they feel this is an important part of the visit! However, if any child who is eligible for Free School Meals would like the kitchen to make a PL, then please **contact the office 8 days** prior to the visit. Requests made after this date, unfortunately cannot be processed.

Payments: A reminder that school meals have been increased to £11 per week, please ensure this payment is made on or before a Monday, via the class not the main office. Any cash for After School Club/Breakfast Club, dinners, trips, sponsors etc. must all be in separate envelopes please and appropriately labelled with your child's name and class. However, a much better method of payment is via the City of Sunderland website, please note details of your child and itemisation of payments in the comments box are needed. **Details of how to claim are attached.**

May I also remind parents who wish their children to change from school meals to packed lunch- the office **MUST** be informed prior to the end of each ½ term, otherwise you will be charged. The main issue arises with Year 3 in September, as school meals are not free from Year 3, unless you are entitled due to family circumstances. We will be sending school meal entitlement forms to year 3, it is worth checking it out. Children will therefore get a free meal and school also get additional funding. Any questions, the office is more than willing to help.

School Funding: As you may be aware government funding for schools has considerably decreased over recent years. Therefore, we are asking all parents to ensure they are claiming for themselves, all that they are entitled to, as this may also entitle school to have additional funding. If you are **ENTITLED** to free school meals (Rec-Y6), due to family circumstances- school also gets an additional £1,320 per pupil. We will be sending out letters and **URGE** parents to check if they meet the criteria. Please, please, please if your circumstances have changed, check it out.

Yard: Could I please ask all parents to stand well back from their children once they start to go into their lines. May I suggest you begin to leave the yard then, rather than wait until the line has walked into school?

If parents wish to speak to class teacher, coming in early via the main entrance would be better, passing info. via the teaching assistant or discussing important issues on a night. Passing on a quick message is fine on a morning, but at times this is requested by many parents and causes too much disruption.

On an evening, please stand well back and around the edges of the building. Do not come forward and block the view of other parents waiting patiently.

There needs to be a point where children are allowed to grow, mature and become a little more emotionally independent. Kisses, cuddles, blowing kisses, waving- is something **the children have suggested is not needed as they get older!**

Recycling Clothes: If you have any spare underwear, socks and tights, school uniform, we would love to have them to change our younger children into when they get wet in the rain, puddles etc. All donations would be appreciated – just pop them into the school office! Football boots, shin pads and football socks would also be most welcome!

Recycling Lego: KS1 would appreciate any LEGO or similar, thank you.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

- **Car Parking Arrangements:** Please be mindful of the Health and Safety of your children. Parking outside the school should be done within the law. Do not block the double gates or park on the zig zag lines. Thank-you for your co-operation.
- **Pupil Contact Information:** Any changes to address, contact information or telephone numbers should be given to the school office as soon as possible as these are very important, especially if your child becomes ill and we need to contact parents/carers. We also use the mobile phone information to send texts out; therefore, they **MUST** be up to date.

Homework: As you are aware we have slimmed down our requests for homework, with weekly homework including reading, tables, spellings and topic research based homework during the holidays. I ask you for your full support and co-operation in ensuring homework tasks are completed to a high standard and are handed in on time. Could all parents please check homework, before it is handed in? If you have any problems, please contact class teachers or myself directly.

Reading Folders: Reading folders are required for your child to bring their reading books to and from school. We provide them free of charge in Reception and year 1 but, ask parents to replace them if they become old or lost. These can be purchased at many stores or from the school office for 50p each.

P.E. Kit: Children need a change of clothing for P.E. lessons. Red/ black shorts, a plain white T-shirt (not a football top), gym shoes/ trainers. In the winter plain dark tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirt when the weather is cold as children do have P.E. outdoors.

Assessments take place across the school year: Mid November, March, June (Y2/6 May) therefore it is imperative all children are expected to have excellent attendance during this revision and testing period. Leave of absences (LOA) will not be granted during any revision or testing period.

Reminder: Dogs are not permitted on school premises. No football to be played on the playground before or after school, as it is too busy. Could I also ask all parents to supervise their children whilst dropping them off in a morning and collecting them on a night? There should be **no children** using the fitness equipment, except when supervised by school staff, during the day. Thank you.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Todd
Head Teacher