

THOMAS A' BECKET INFANT SCHOOL

SPRING TERM NEWSFLASH ISSUE 1

14th JANUARY 2020



Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. We hope that you had a lovely break with your families. We have already packed an awful lot into the first week, with our annual Keep Safe Week, looking at all aspects of safety for children both inside and outside of school. We hope that you will talk to your children about what they have learned this week and build on their confidence and resilience in this area. We have had some fantastic activities, including our Bike and Scooter Day for Year 1, and the visits from the Fire Service and the Police for Reception children. Add in the Year 2 Drusillas trip and it truly has been a busy and exciting week for learning across the school.



e-Safety:

During Keep Safe week last week, we looked at how to stay safe when online, using digital technologies at home and school. There is lots of research into screen time effects, especially when considering how long children are using screens for. The link for further information is as follows: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-46749232>. *Please be aware that screen time should not replace regular exercise, sleep or spending time with family.*

Scooter Safety



It has come to our attention that some children are riding their scooters on school premises. We regularly remind children that they must walk their scooters across the playground and paths at the start and the end of the school day due to the high numbers of people around the school grounds at this time and many younger siblings. We would therefore, really welcome your support with this and remind your children also.

Parking outside school

Can we please remind parents about driving and parking safely and respectfully around the school grounds. We are regularly seeing parents using the zig zag lines for parking and we have had residents contact us to say they have been unable to access their driveways due to the parking at the start and the end of the school day. Whilst we appreciate that, it can be busy and congested and that you want to get your children into school or pick them up on time, their safety must be prioritised and this means safe parking and driving around school.

Above and Beyond

The updates to our behaviour policy are now all in place and we are really pleased with the results. Your child may have come home with a postcard which means their behaviour has been 'above & beyond' our expectations. Please congratulate your child on this fantastic achievement. The children aim to get their names or photos up on the 'above & beyond boards' which we have in all classrooms. We also continue to run our 100 stars class reward.

Attendance and Punctuality:

As a school, our attendance policy is set in line with West Sussex County Council guidelines and our local family of schools. Children are expected to be in school, on time each day, unless they are unwell.

Regular lateness can really affect your child's confidence and learning in school. Children that are persistently late often find it very difficult to keep up with the learning in their year group as they can miss vital input at the start of the day. We will send out regular reminders to families where there is a concern with attendance. We are always available to chat if you would like support to help improve your child's punctuality and attendance.



School Uniform

As the children have come back from the holidays, we would like to give out a gentle reminder about school uniform. Now might be a good time to check on PE kits to see if plimsolls still fit and that all items are still in the bag (and named). Children need a warm coat each day as we will go out for play and lunch whenever we can. Could we also remind you that trainers are not part of our school uniform. West Sussex County Council policy states that no earrings (including studs) should be worn for P.E. lessons. Your child's earrings should either be removed or covered with 'Micropore' tape before coming into school on their P.E. day. If your child wears earrings, please put some extra 'Micropore' tape in their P.E bags for this purpose. Many thanks.



School Meal:

On Thursday 17th January only, Chartwells are changing the regular menu to a 'Children's Choice' menu, which is:

Choose a main...

Beef Burger in a Bun & Chips OR Veggie Nuggets & Chips

On the side...

Baked Beans or Salad and Ketchup

For dessert...

Sticky Toffee & Apple Sponge with Custard

Or Melon Slices

For a drink...

Blackcurrant Squash, milk or water



On this day we will be encouraging even the packed lunch children to try a small portion!

Please also remember to let the office know if your child would like to change their meal pattern or if they would just like a hot meal on a particular day of the week. Meals have to be ordered 2 weeks in advance and last week we had more children than hot meals ordered! This current menu runs now until 13th April. Many thanks for your continued support.





Reading

We regularly hear your children read, both individually and as part of a small group in school, but regular practice at home is absolutely crucial in helping your child to become a confident reader. As well as sharing the books in your child's book bag,

bedtime reading and reading to your child is just as beneficial as it develops their concentration, confidence, vocabulary and imagination. If you are struggling to read with your child at home and would like some support, there are some fantastic websites such as: www.booktrust.org.uk or www.raisemartkid.com Please pop in and speak to your child's class teacher if you would like some more specific strategies.

Lost Property

Please, please, please can you all remember to label/name every item of clothing that your child wears to school, including their Forest School clothes, so that if any items do get mislaid then they can be returned to your child as soon as possible. Any unnamed items that are in the Main Office for more than 3 weeks will be taken to the local charity shop or clothing recycling bins.



School Calendar & Website

We have updated this terms online calendar which you can find [here](#) This is a useful place to check upcoming events at school, your child's Forest School Day and school trips.



BIG THANK YOU

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all of you who have kindly bought us gifts from our wish list on Amazon. Your generosity is very much appreciated.



Picking up children

It has come to our attention that sometimes siblings are collecting children from school. We would like to clarify that only siblings who are 18 or over can collect a child from school. We apologise if this has been overlooked previously or staff have not realised the age of the sibling collecting a child from school. We have asked staff to make sure they check the age of a sibling if they are unsure, but we ask for your support with this going forward.





REMINDER OF TERM DATES:



INSET DAYS:

Friday 14th February

Monday 20th July

Spring Half Term:

Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February

Easter Holidays:

Monday 6th April - Friday 17th April

Summer Half Term:

Tuesday 26th May - Friday 29th May

Last day of Summer Term 2020:

Friday 17th July

COMMUNITY CORNER:

Splashpoint Leisure Centre
60 Brighton Road, Worthing BN11 2EN

Short Breaks
for disabled children
and young people

Disability Family Fun Days

amaze

Book for
January
NOW!

Saturday 25th January 4pm - 8pm
Future Disability Family Fun Day dates for your diary (not yet bookable):
Saturday 29th February & Saturday 4th April

Suitable for children aged 0-18 with a disability, and their parents or carers

**Lego Robotics Workshop
with 'Curiosity Hub'**
(Saturday 25th January only)
4:30-5:30pm & 6-7pm
Build a robot alligator using Lego WeDo
robotics kits and then
'bring it to life' by
creating a program from
Curiosity Hub to make it
move and chomp!

**Book in advance
- space limited!**

Please note, children will not be able to take
the robotics kits home but are invited to
take photos/videos before we pack up.

- Inflatables, mats and toys in main pool
- Bouncy castle
- Circuits gym sessions 4pm-4:30 pm
(13-18 year olds)
- Puzzle Room (29/02/20 & 04/04/20)
- Use of spa area (16 years+)
- Food and refreshments available at
The Coffee House

Changing places Toilets on site
Changing lives plus hoist

**Only £5.00 per child/young person
Parents and carers go FREE**

Call 01903 905050 for details and book at Splashpoint reception

South Downs
Leisure
www.southdownsleisure.co.uk