

FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

So as the soggy bottomed cake of this half term gets dismissed from the baking tent of school, and the month that is October gets skewered by the steely eyed stare from the Paul Hollywood of time, I see that the first seven weeks of this school year are all but over. I would like to thank all of you for your support so far this year: for your patience when things have not gone according to plan, for your help when we have needed helpers for trips, and for your thanks when you have been happy with what we have done. The school has been a very settled place with everyone working incredibly hard and being determined to demonstrate the “excellence” that has been our focused Brunel Value this half term. I hope you all have a good week off and I look forward to seeing you all back on *Tuesday 1 November* when the staff and I will have our annual argument about when to put the decorations up....

Iain C. Gilmore

STAFF NEWS

After an extraordinary number of years here, Sue Gibb (née Woolvin) and Kim Willis are leaving us having been Lunchtime Supervisors for probably generations of children. We wish them the very best of luck!

We have a welcome plethora of new staff to welcome. First of all, Mrs Emma West has joined us as Senior Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant and already making a positive difference to lunchtimes. She will be joined by Mrs Lucy Mitchell and Ms Stacey Oswald who are our new Lunchtime Supervisors.

In the classroom, we welcome Miss Lucy Passmore and Mrs Wendy Dottin-Mills to join our fantastic team of teaching assistants. Lastly, we look forward to welcoming Mr Ricky Jeffery as our new caretaker when he starts the second week back after half-term.



Finally we wish Mrs Toghill the very best of luck as she begins her maternity leave at the start of November.

TIMINGS OF THE DAY

A few parents have asked me to confirm the timings for the school day.

In the morning, we open the gates at 8:40am – earlier if it’s raining – to give children ten minutes to come into school before the official start of the day at 8:50am. Anyone who arrives after that, even by a minute, is marked as “late”. Last week we had 44 children who were late which is far too many. Anyone who arrives after 9am is marked as “late after register closes” which counts as a half day absence even though they are in school – this is a government rule not mine!



In the afternoon, we do the reverse. The official end of the day is 3:20pm but we have a ten minute window until 3:30pm to get the children to the playground sensibly and allow a bit of time to look for

lost coats or mislaid lunch boxes. Please don't be upset if the classes are not out on the dot of 3:20pm: our school booklet has always had this bit of leeway to make sure the end of the day is as calm as it can be.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Festival is on Thursday 20 October when we will welcome Rev Tracey Ansell from the North End Baptist Church to accept our Harvest Gifts for the Food Bank. Please could you bring in a tin or packet or something similar tomorrow so we can support this really important local charity. Unfortunately our top hall is not big enough to accommodate parents – some days, getting all the children in is difficult enough – but I will try and take some photographs for the website. However you are all invited to the next event....



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Seeing as the shops have had Santa and snowmen chocolate in for the last month and my favourite garden centre has ruined itself by opening its Grotto, I suppose it's just about okay to mention Christmas. The rule when I was growing up was that we weren't allowed to talk about it until after my Dad's birthday on 8 November and even then we didn't get a tree until the schools had broken up...sorry, where was I?



For those of you new to the school, we sing traditional carols during odd number years and a modern nativity during even numbered years so children get a mix of the old and the new. This being 2016, we will put on a modern nativity. This will take place at **2pm on Friday 16 December at St Mary's Church, Fratton.** Everyone is invited for this special community occasion and as it is at the church, there is plenty of room. This will also be our Christmas Jumper Day!



If for religious reasons you would prefer your child not to take part, please could you write to the school. You will need to collect your child at 12pm on the Friday as the school will be closed that afternoon.

HALLOWEEN DISCO

My thanks to our always lovely PTA for organising Thursday's Halloween Disco. Unfortunately due to my wife's evening work commitments, I'm unable to attend but I look forward to hearing all about the scary costumes and even scarier dancing.



YEAR 3 NASAL 'FLU VACCINE

A quick reminder for Year 3 that Friday 21 October is the date for the nasal 'flu vaccines. Please make sure you have sent in your permission letter as without it the school nurses cannot administer this vital winter treatment.



2016-17 DATES

Autumn Term 2016 – Tuesday 6 September - Friday 16 December Half Term: Monday 24 - Friday 28 October
Spring Term 2017 - Tuesday 3 January - Friday 7 April - Half Term: Monday 20 - Friday 24 February
Summer Term 2017 - Monday 24 April - Tuesday 25 July - Half Term: Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June

INSET days: 31 October, 3 January, 27 February, 5 June

Have a great half term and see you all on Tuesday 1 November!