

## Newsletter 24<sup>th</sup> September

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### Principal's welcome

Welcome back to our new school year, we have had an extremely busy start with a trip to Finkley Down Farm for our KS1 children, an in school beach day for the Y3 pupils and lots of other exciting hooks for learning to our new topics across the school. The staff are excited to start the school year with so many exciting topics planned and we will continue to have a clear focus on school improvement and achieving better outcomes for our children. I am extremely proud of the children, what they are achieving and how well they are behaving and it is evident that the values based education is having an impact on the school. I feel extremely privileged to work with such lovely children and a dedicated, caring, supportive and conscientious team!

### Who to talk to about concerns

Please remember, if you have any concerns at all please speak to your child's class teacher as this will always be your first point of contact. There is also Miss Hargreaves the lower school leader, Miss Millar the upper school leader, Mr Williams the Assistant Principal or myself. We will endeavour to help with any concerns which have been unable to be resolved. It is vital that we work together to ensure your child is happy and flourishes at school.

### Settling in/welcome

Now that the children have been back to school for a couple of weeks it is great to see the fantastic relationships they are building with their new class teachers/teaching assistants. A great big welcome to all of our new children who have joined our Zouch family and of course a big welcome to our new Ducklings, Wrens and Robins too. The Wrens and Robins have learnt the routines quickly and have embraced the challenge of starting full time. A big welcome also to Mrs Shaw Y3 teacher, Mr Morris Y2 teacher, Mrs Hailey Y4/5 TA, Mrs Barnes 1:1 TA and Mrs Henderson 1:1 TA.

### Safety of the children

For the safety of our children, please can I ask parents NOT to park on the double yellow lines outside of the school gates at any time. If anybody parks on these, even if it's to drop off/pick up a child, they will be asked to move immediately. Also, please do not drive into the school premises to turn your car around and this is a danger to our children, or encourage your child to walk across the carpark even

if they are supervised by an adult. The carpark is out of bounds for all children! Thank you for working with us to help keep our children safe.

### Parents Evenings

The parents evening letters will be sent home very soon so please check your child's reading folder and return the slip to your child's class teacher ASAP. These meetings will be held on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October** or **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**. The meeting timing will be 10 minutes long and you will meet the teacher in your child's classroom. I would encourage parents to attend to discuss how your child has settled into their new class and how they are performing academically. The meeting will allow staff to work with you and clear up any problems immediately if there are any.

### Meal Bookings and Census Day 4<sup>th</sup> October

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October is our Census day. This is when we send our pupil numbers to the local authority and we receive funding for our universal school meals. All KS1 Children will be booked a hot meal on this day unless we are advised by a parent

Please remember to book your child's hot meals by midnight Tuesday for the following week. KS1 will be able to book meals all the way through to half term. There will be a new menu available after half term.

### Homework routines

All homework (Y1 –Y6) will be sent home each Wednesday and will need to be handed into school on the following Tuesday to be marked. All of the homework set will always be work which the children have previously learnt in class, therefore this is a great opportunity for the children to consolidate the learning with the skills they have previously acquired.

### PE Kit/Forest school kit

Please make sure your child has his/her full PE kit (including trainers or pumps) and their Forest Schools kit in school on a Monday as occasionally the days of these activities may change. Please ask in the office if you are unsure of what your child needs for either activity.

### Parent Pay

Please check your child's Parent Pay accounts for any outstanding payments. Any outstanding amounts must be paid ASAP.

## Secondary School Applications

Year 6 Children have until Midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> October to apply for their Secondary School Place, please visit [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk) to apply online.

## Childcare Vouchers / Tax Free Childcare

We are now set up with HM.Gov as a childcare provider and can receive payment via the Tax Free Childcare scheme and Childcare Vouchers. Before submitting any payments, please let the office know your child's unique payment code which will be issued once you have selected us as your childcare provider with HM.Gov. This will enable us to ensure we allocate the correct payments to your child's Parent Pay account.

## Named uniforms

Please can children wear full school uniform every day (including ties for Y5/6 pupils). Please can parents ensure their child's uniform, especially their PE kit is clearly named. We have found lots of lost property already this term with no names in, so we are unable to return it to the owners.

## Our school aims this year

Each year every school has targets on a school development plan so that focus can be given to areas within the school which may need improving. This year we have 4 main aims at Zouch which I would like to share with the parents:

1. To improve standards in writing across the school.
2. To improve the attendance of pupils.
3. To embed new leadership structures across the school.
4. To develop a more inspiring curriculum using local resources and the geographical area.

## Attendance

As attendance is one of our main aims this academic year, we will be encouraging children to be on time in school (OTIS) as often as possible. We have lots of incentives going on to encourage children with this. We understand if your child has a hospital appointment they cannot help not attending school. No holidays will be authorised during school term time unless there is an accompanying letter with the absent request form from the Military to state that a parent has been deployed or will deploy on operational duties. Each case will be looked at personally as will the compassionate leave of absence forms. Unfortunately, we have little/no choice not to fine parents who take their child out of school unauthorised during term time.

If your child is poorly, please leave a message on the answer phone by selecting option 1. The office will then be able to log your child's absence on the register.

## Jeans for Genes

Thank you to all of the children who took part in this event last week, this is a great cause and the money raised will be donated to the charity.

## New Emergency Contact Numbers or E-Mails

Please let the office know any changes to personal details ASAP, it is extremely important that we have up to date information in the case of an emergency.

## Term Details

The term ends on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 1PM.**

We have Teacher Training Day on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October, Children will return to school on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November.** Please ensure your child's meals are booked on Parent Pay by **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.**

## Future Dates for your Diary

- Thur 27 Sept** Macmillan Coffee Morning  
**Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Oct** Parents Evening  
**Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct** Parents Evening  
**Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Oct** Census Day  
**Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Oct** School Photos  
**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct** Flu Immunisations Rec to Year 5  
**Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Oct** Last day of Term! Finish at 1PM

**Mrs Johnson** *Principal*

