



Dear parents/carers

Working with parents

We were very pleased to see so many parents on parents' evening. The event was very well attended; I know parents value the information you receive about your child. The book fair was extremely successful, many of our children enjoyed selecting books with their parents. This has provided school with £300 to spend on books for the classrooms and library. Responses from the parental survey were overwhelmingly positive with a number of parents commenting favourably on the improved flow of traffic on Dawson Road.

Thank you to the large number of parents who attended the road safety meeting on 16.10.18. Parents shared their ideas for further improving road safety. Parents who attended had constructive ideas, these included:

- Contacting Soho Road BID (Business Improvement District) to see if they could be of help in our drive to improve road safety;
- Putting up signs on the school fencing to remind parents that illegal stopping could result in a photograph being taken and sent to the Civil Enforcement team at the city council;
- Considering the use of parent volunteers before and after school on Dawson Road as an additional visual reminder to drivers;
- Contacting the council regarding support in the form of a body or hat camera for the crossing patrol warden;
- Offering road safety workshops for children and parents in school.

Miss Mills will be contacting the council, the local police and Soho Bid to discuss the viability of these suggestions after half term.

The next road safety meeting will be on Thursday 17th January 2019 at 9am.

Inspire workshops have also been very well attended by parents of children in reception, year 1 and year 2. Our focus for school improvement work continues to be reading. Many parents comment that they value the opportunity to see how their child works in class and find out how we teach reading.

Next term Inspire workshops for parents are on:

Tuesday 20th November - Year 4

Thursday 22nd November - Year 5

Friday 23rd November - Year 3 and Year 6

All the workshops start at 9.00am. Please join us to find out more about how we teach reading in key stage two.



A number of parents have joined us after school to complete the secondary transfer forms online. All forms should be completed by 31.10.18. The form can be found at:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1778/apply_for_secondary_school_year_7_place/2

Attendance

School attendance is currently 96.2%. Our attendance target for this year is 95.25%. Well done to the 379 pupils who have come to school every day so far this term. We will celebrate your success in assemblies after the half term holiday.

We continue to work with families to reduce persistent absence. If your child is absent for 19 days in a school year this is equivalent to 4 weeks absence and will mean your child is classed as persistently absent. School follow Birmingham City Council's Fast-track to attendance (September 2018). Details can be found on the school website: www.grove.bham.sch.uk/parents/attendance .

We look forward to awarding many more prizes to children who achieve 100% attendance at the end of the autumn term.

Reading

This term all pupils in Years 3-6 have been given a copy of the book their class are reading. We have asked children to read part of the class novel for homework, I hope you have enjoyed supporting your child with this reading. Children in school are really enjoying reading the class novel. Next term the following books will be read in class:

Year 3 Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo

Year 4 How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell

Year 5 A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Year 6 A Series of Unfortunate Events, The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket.

I hope you enjoyed reading your child's homework report. Reading at home will help all children make progress in school.

Educational visits and visitors

This term the children have taken part in some memorable visits and welcomed visitors to school. Children in nursery and reception were mesmerised by the animals that visited us. They saw and touched a snake, gecko, cockroach and a 25-year-old tortoise. Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed dressing up as Victorian children and playing games from the past at Weston Park. Year 2 enjoyed the good weather at The Brighthouse where they went on a walk, explored art in nature and used maps. Year 3 visited Sarehole Mill and found out so much about the Stone Age and Bronze Age. Year 4 found out fascinating facts about teeth through first-hand exploration when Hands on Science visited school. Year 5 visited a coalmine and Victorian schoolroom at the Black Country Living museum and Year 6 studied the art of L.S Lowry and found out about World War Two at the Imperial War Museum, Manchester.

These experiences result in children talking, writing and reading to find out more.



After school clubs

This term we have offered 28 clubs after school. A total of 359 pupils have taken part in learning after school in a whole range of subjects.

Term dates

Autumn Term 2018

Half Term: Monday 29th October 2018 to Friday 2nd November 2018

Staff training day: Friday 7th December 2018

Term Ends: Friday 21st December 2018

Spring Term 2019

Term Starts: Monday 7th January 2019

Parents evening: Thursday 31st January 2019

Half Term: Monday 18th February 2019 to Friday 22nd February 2019

Staff training day: Friday 29th March 2019

Term Ends: Friday 12th April 2019

Summer Term 2019

Term Starts: Monday 29th April 2019

Half Term: Monday 27th May 2019 to Friday 31st May 2019

Parents evening: Thursday 11th July 2019

Term Ends: Friday 19th July 2019

Staff training day: Monday 22nd July 2019

After half term we will be selling poppies in school. Children are invited to make a small contribution when they buy a poppy.

We hope all the children have a good half term break and enjoy completing their holiday projects. School starts for all pupils on Monday 5th November at 8.45am.

Yours sincerely,

Ms J Baker

Deputy head teacher