



Headteacher: Mr L Smith Coton-in-the-Elms C of E Primary School

5th September 2018

Dear Parents

It is wonderful to see you all again after the summer break. I hope that your summer was relaxing and enjoyable, especially with the benefit of the prolonged hot weather. I would particularly like to welcome our new children and families into school. I hope that you enjoy being part of what we offer; we look forward to working closely with you over the coming months and years.

This year, there are many exciting opportunities that we have in store for you and your child. As always, we recognise the importance of a successful working partnership with all families, believing that this is in the best interests of every single child. Our school diary dates will be uploaded to our school website over the next day or so but in the meantime, I'd like to highlight a few specific events to look out for:

- **Learning Lens Week** – this is a new event added where once a term you will be able to come and see your child's work and informally chat with your child about what they have been learning in class
- **Headteacher Cuppa and Cake** – Come along for a really informal chat about what we are getting up to in school, ask questions and discuss new ideas.
- **FPTA events** – Anybody can come along! Please invite family members and friends, children may wish to join us to. Our first event is coming up on Tuesday 25th September @ 6pm – Chocolate Bingo. This is always a popular event for children and families.
- **Prepare Aware Sessions for parents** – A chance to find our key information affecting your child

Addressing Concerns

Firstly, should you have any concern or a query relating to your child, please come into school and make an appointment to see your child's class teacher in the first instance. They are always best-placed to shed light on a situation and will be happy to help. In the event that you wish escalate your concern, please arrange a conversation with the Key Stage Leader; Mrs Smith will be keen to help if your child is in Key Stage 1 and Mrs Weston will be there for any parents of children in Key Stage 2. Mr Smith is the SENCO contact should you have any questions or concerns in this area.

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Attendance

As regards attendance and lateness, we are really proud that our average attendance figure was in line with the national average last year and a total of 17 children attended school for every day last year! At the end of every term, any child who has been at school for every day of the term, is rewarded with a 100% attendance award in a special assembly. We also reward those children who have a 100% attendance for the whole school year. We understand that at particular times of the year, some children are ill and need time away from school. If your child is not going to be in school, please telephone the school and leave a message for us. In the event that your child is late, we have a new electronic signing-in system in reception for you to use. This is so any personal details can be protected and they are not on view to other visitors. If your child is late, please ensure that an adult signs them in at the office using the electronic system.

School Uniform

The children look incredibly smart in their new school uniform and it is great to see so many of them wearing it with pride around our school. Should you be unsure about any aspect of school uniform, please come and talk to us or visit our school website. This year, your child will be awarded a privilege point each day, if they line up wearing the correct school uniform. We'd like to politely remind all parents that nail-varnish and make-up is not to be worn in school and no personal items should be brought into school from home.

Medicines

Due to a change in legislation, we are unable to administer non-prescribed medicines in school anymore. Should your child need any of the 'over the counter' medicine, we'd ask that they take it before school or an adult comes into school during the day to administer this. We are sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause, but I am sure you all appreciate that we have to follow procedures to keep your child safe. In the event that prescribed medicine needs to be given, please access a form from the school office as normal; class teachers are unable to receive medicine in the line first thing in the morning.

Home-Learning

Last night, children from Years 1 to Year 6 were issued with a new Learning Log for this academic year. As a school, we want our children to be given access to a rich and fulfilling childhood, where they are free to experience as many interesting things outside of school as possible. However, we also have to best support them to cope with the demands of the curriculum and regular practice really does help. For our Year 5 and 6 children in particular, it gets them ready for secondary school. Every week for home learning, the children will be expected to do a simple spelling activity linked to words that are handed out in class (please note that these may vary depending upon the individual needs of children).

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Children are tested on these words once a week and parents can keep track of how they have got on by looking in the Home-Learning Log. In addition, we ask that children complete a maths activity linked to an assigned times table, also given out in class. This is alongside daily reading practice. Just a few minutes of reading each day can make such a big difference! Your child's Home Learning Log will be checked every Monday to see if tasks have been completed. Every child will be rewarded with 5 privilege points if every piece has been completed, included the 5 daily reads per week. In the event that your child needs some support to complete their home-learning or in the event that home-learning is not completed, Mrs Christie will be running Home Learning Club every Tuesday lunchtime between 12:30 and 1pm. Children may come along if they wish.

Celebration Assembly

This year, in a change to previous years, we will be holding a much more prestigious Celebration Assembly once a half term to replace the weekly Friday assembly. This will include refreshments for visitors. As a school, we want to make the rewarding of certificates really special and make more of it when we do. At the half-termly Celebration Assembly, any parent or relative is welcome to come along as always but we will also be sending special notification to parents of children receiving an award in advance, should they wish to get time off work to attend. We understand that waiting 6 to 8 weeks for a certificate can be a long time for a child, so teachers will be looking out for children who impress them on a weekly basis and their photos will be displayed on the Special Mentions Board in reception each week. Privilege Points will continue to be used as a way of rewarding the children also, and once they have 25 points, they will be able to attend Privilege Time with Mr. Smith. If any children have certificates to bring in from home, please send these into school every Friday and we will showcase these in school.

In other news...

Mrs Christie is looking forward to teaching the Year 5 children for Maths this term, until she goes off on maternity leave around late November time. This should be really helpful for the upper Key Stage 2 children, as they have time to adjust to the challenging Maths curriculum.

We are also delighted to inform you that Mrs Smith has some exciting news of her own. She is expecting her second child in early spring next year and we are all really pleased for her and the family. Obviously, we understand that continuity is so vitally important for children of any age and we will be working hard to find a suitable candidate to cover her maternity leave and then ensure that this person familiarises themselves with you as parents and your child prior to taking over around February time. We, as always, will do our level best to minimise any unnecessary disruption for the children. They have all made such a great start

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to their time at our school, and the transition process from last term should highlight our commitment to ensuring that we manage this change effectively.

Keeping up to date

Please keep your eyes on our website, we are continually adding information and updating things on an ongoing basis. Don't forget to sign up for regular email alerts too. I will be posting my weekly Headteacher Blog online every weekend and this is to replace the traditional newsletter, in our drive to be as paperless as possible. I usually post lots of useful bits of information on my blog and you can keep up to date with what has been happening in school, including those children who have impressed us.

Finally, your child's class teacher will be sending a class newsletter home by the end of next week. This letter will outline all of the topics that your child is learning about this term and it will have some useful messages pertaining to your child's class.

In the meantime, welcome back! I really look forward to working with you once again and getting to learn lots of new names!

Yours sincerely



Mr L Smith
Headteacher