



Smallwood News—'Excellence Through Enjoyment'

Website address: www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk

01477 500362

20th October

Dear Parents and Carers

We have finally made it to our first half term holiday; we have lots of very tired children (and teachers) who after a jam packed half term are very definitely ready for a week off. Make sure you all have a good break and return fresh and well rested for what is likely to be an even busier half term in the run up to Christmas. Remember, Monday 30th October is a staff training day so we will see you on Tuesday 31st October. As a result, there will be no Smallwood Steps the first week back.

Monday was our Stay and Learn morning and I was delighted to see so many families coming into school and working with their children. I saw so many exciting activities helping children to understand how their brain works and exploring how they can learn better. From tasting healthy breakfasts, learning Welsh, investigating the impact of exercise, making model brains to playing memory games the school was a hive of industry. We also introduced our new citizenship programme, please get involved and have fun with the activities. I am hoping to see so many children achieve gold medals when we have our awards ceremony. Remember, when your child achieves one of the challenges, stick some evidence in the book and bring it into school for their teacher to sign.

By the time you read this letter, all parents and carers should have been in to school to have a meeting with their child's teacher. Parents meetings are incredibly important as they help us to strengthen the partnership we have with you. We work together best when we are a team; regular updates keeping you informed as to how your child is doing and how you can help by supporting with targets and activities, ensuring that your child receives the best support possible. This year we have introduced Snapshot Reports which will play a big role in giving you regular information updates at the end of each half term. If you have not met with your child's teacher yet please make sure that you arrange a meeting with them. Please remember that our doors are always open; if you have any concerns or worries it is vital that you come and speak to us as soon as possible. Teachers are usually available at the end of the day and will be more than happy to speak with you, appointments can be made with the office, I am at the gate most mornings and if you cannot come into school we are more than happy to arrange a telephone meeting.

I would also like to thank all of the children who signed up to join the Worship Council and School Safety Council it was wonderful to see how many community spirited children we have in our school. It was very difficult to choose the 12 members for each council, children were selected for their enthusiasm and eagerness to contribute and help to make our school a better place. The first Council meetings will take place after half term.



Smallwood News—'Excellence Through Enjoyment'

Website address: www.smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk

01477 500362

20th October

Congratulations to the school orchestra who gave their first performance in today's assembly. They have been playing together for such a short period of time and worked together incredibly well. Learning to listen and play in a group is very challenging and all of our orchestra should be very proud of themselves.

Children will receive their Fluenze on Thursday 2nd November. The school nurse has asked me to remind all parents of children receiving the treatment (Reception to Year 4) that if you have a change of plans and your child receives their treatment through the doctor's surgery that you need to make sure you inform the school nurse. Fluenze makes a big difference each year to the illness rates we have in school both for pupils and staff. I have already heard on the news that the authorities are anticipating a lot of flu this winter so please do all you can to help with the drive to protect our community against it.

Operation Christmas Child leaflets went out this week please spend some time in half term putting together your shoe box. We will need all shoe boxes to be in school by Monday 13th November.

The School Education Welfare Officer came to visit this week and has asked me to inform parents that Cheshire East are now giving fines for holidays taken in term time. Whenever possible, I do authorise holidays, however, there are very strict guidelines which I have to work within. I cannot authorise a holiday in term time unless there are special circumstances and previous attendance has to be taken into account before any absence can be authorised. Unauthorised holidays have to be referred to Cheshire East and may well be subject to a penalty notice. When penalties are issued, these are given to each parent. This amounts to £60 per child for each parent/carer. Therefore, taking a family with 2 children out of school for an unauthorised holiday would lead to fines amounting to £240.

Children in Need takes place on the 17th November. To celebrate we will be taking part in a whole school Spotacular Sponsored Welly Walk. Your challenge will be to come to school dressed as spottily as possible. In the afternoon we will be going on our Spotacular Ramble; parents, friends and family are welcome to put on some spots and come and join us. When we get back to school, spotty cakes, soup and snacks will be available to buy. The sponsorship form is attached to this email. Please gather as many sponsors as you possibly can so that we can raise a Spotacular total for Children in Need.



Brookhouse Green Tots Group will re start on Tuesday 31st October at Brookhouse Green Chapel from 1.15—3pm

School Uniform

Just a quick reminder that school uniform is really important and we expect all children to follow the guidelines set out in our policy. We have noticed in the last couple of weeks that a few children are not following the high standards that we set.

Please ensure that all children follow uniform expectations particularly for footwear, hair accessories and clothing.

Uniform consists of light blue polo shirt, blue sweatshirt or cardigan, grey skirt or trousers. Shoes with platform heels are not allowed.

PE kit needs to be in school from Monday EVERY WEEK.

Non-School Uniform Day.

On Friday 10th November we will be having a non-school uniform day and the PFTA have requested donations of items for the main tombola or teddy tombola stall at the Christmas Fayre which is taking place on Saturday 25th November.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

We are support the appeal this year by selling Poppies and also other merchandise that has been supplied to us including Wristbands and Poppy reflectors.

Please see the attached email for more details and suggested donation, the children will be able to wear the items up until the 10th November.

Healthy Lunchboxes

Please can you ensure that if your child brings a packed lunch that does not contain anything with nuts (look out for hidden nuts eg: battenburg and cereal bars) also may we remind you that we are a healthy eating school so sweets should not be brought in.

Water bottles should be brought into school every day and only contain water.

Coffee and Chat Evening with Miss Mander and the Governors

This is an evening similar to the afternoon teas with Miss Mander and is taking place on Wednesday 1st November from 6pm – 7pm. Refreshments will be available and we have asked the catering services to provide some samples for the evening.

We will introduce our plans for our proposed parents council on this evening too.

Please let us know on the below slip or email admin@smallwood.cheshire.sch.uk if you are coming.

Name: _____ will be attending the Coffee and Chat evening. There will be (no) _____