

Newsletter February 2018

On behalf of the Local Board

During the course of this term, members of the Local Board have continued to visit and support the school. Some members were lucky enough to attend the Parent Open Mornings, which were held last month. We were delighted, not only with what we saw happening within the school, but also with the positive feedback shared with us from yourselves. We are pleased that you were able to experience first hand the improvements to the children's educational provision.

We will continue to visit the school on a regular basis over the coming weeks and months, offering both support and challenge to the staff team as they continue on the journey to secure the education deserved by the children of Weston St Mary Primary School.

Head of School Update

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who completed the questionnaire that we sent home in January. Your responses have provided us with many positives to celebrate, along with areas that we can develop. We were delighted to learn that 100% of the parents agree that children at Weston St Mary are encouraged to work hard and to do their best. We were also pleased to learn that 93.75% of parents who completed the questionnaire feel that the school offers good support for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.

In response to the questionnaire, there will be some areas that we are looking to improve on:

Celebrating positive behaviour and work:

The questionnaire showed that only 25% of parents feel that they are informed about good behaviour and work, so we will look to raise the profile of our existing rewards and celebrations of good behaviour, as well as introduce some new ideas. We currently celebrate children's behaviour and work through Star of the Week certificates, and also give out Golden Tickets to children who have behaved well during lunch times. Golden Ticket winners get to attend Top Table on a Friday and get to choose a prize. We celebrate these successes on our Weston Wonder Wall, which can be found in our school hall, and will now update our website regularly to show which children have received these awards. Day to day, children are given house points for good work and behaviour, which are tallied up and announced during our Celebration Collective Worship on Fridays. We will be looking to increase the use of stickers as a celebration of pupils' successes, and will encourage our teachers to share your child's successes with you at the end of the day, either on the playground or by telephone for parents of children who travel to school by bus.

Links with Church:

31.25% of parents do not feel that we have sufficient links with our local church, so we will look to develop this further. So far this year we have attended church for Harvest Festival and our Christmas Carol Service. As well as this, School Parliament visited Church to decorate Christmas trees using decorations that the children had made at school. Mrs Flack is now working to establish a Bishop's visitor for the school, to strengthen our links with the Diocese. Although Reverend Paul will no longer be working at St Mary Church in Weston, we will still maintain our link with the church as we feel this is a vital part of being a Church of England school.

Links with the local community:

43.75% of parents feel that the school is not supported by the local community, so we will be looking to develop links with our local community throughout the rest of this academic year and beyond. We are currently organising a community lunch, where residents of Weston will be invited into school to dine with the children. More details will follow on this shortly.

Updating Changes

If your child has a change in medical circumstances, please notify the school office so that we can keep our records up to date and ensure that all staff are aware of each child's conditions.

School Lunches

Please ensure that when ordering school lunches online via A Country Kitchen, you checkout your choices. We have had some instances where parents have not checked out their choices therefore lunches have not been ordered.

Special Needs Support

As the school's SENDCo, Mrs Flack is available between 9.30 and 11.00am on Friday mornings should any parents or carers wish to discuss any concerns they may have regarding their child's special education needs. Please make contact with the office to make an appointment.

Playground Safety

Just a gentle reminder that riding bikes and scooters within the school grounds is not allowed by children or adults and we respectfully ask for your support in this matter. We also ask that dogs are not brought onto the premises, including the school's car park.

Dates for your diary

19th February Term 4
6th March – Parents in for Lunch
7th March – Parents in for Lunch
14th March – Community Lunch

Safeguarding

We believe that safeguarding is an important part of the work with children and young adults so will keep this reminder in all of our newsletters. Please remember that safeguarding is the responsibility of all of us. If we are concerned about the safety of any child, we should let somebody know. Mrs Flack is the designated safeguarding person in school. In her absence, contact Mrs Palmer who has now also been trained as a designated safeguarding person.

Term Dates

Term 3

3rd January 2018 to 9th February 2018

Term 4

19th February 2018 to 28th March 2018

Term 5

16th April 2018 to 25th May 2018

Term 6

4th June 2018 to 20th July 2018

School Closures School Closures due to weather or emergencies.

The decision to close the school is never taken lightly. We appreciate that many pupils live within walking distance of the school but we also have to take account of where our staff live and their ability to travel to and from school safely in order to ensure the safety of our pupils. Once the decision has been taken to close the school, the information will be broadcast on local radio

- Lincs FM (FM (VHF) 102.2 megahertz or www.lincsfm.co.uk)
- BBC Radio Lincolnshire FM(VHF) 94.9/MW 1368 kilohertz/219m or www.bbc.co.uk/lincolnshire
- www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures
- www.weston-st-mary.co.uk

E-Safety

Tuesday February 6th is Safer Internet Day and as a school that embraces the use of digital technology in our curriculum it is the kind of day that we relish. During the day itself children will be taking part in a number of different activities that involve looking at how they can stay safe online as well as who they can talk to should they see something that is inappropriate.

Should you wish to find out more about the topic of e-safety in the modern world an ADE colleague of mine (Simon Pile) has written a number of simple, downloadable eBooks that talk about the subject of internet safety in a child friendly manner. They are all free and make for a nice way to start discussion about the topic. Should you wish to download these books you can find them on the Apple iBook store or by following the links below....

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