

2nd March 2020

SPRING NEWSLETTER (2)



Welcome Back,

We hope all our families have had a nice half term and enjoyed time with their children, despite the horrific weather conditions. Thank you to all the parents / grandparents / carers and families that attended our Chinese New Year Celebration. It was lovely to see you and meet new faces too. The children did exceptionally well and the performance was loved by all.

This opportunity would not have taken place without the work from Ms Sheron and the teachers, the event took place as part of the National Lottery funding which we received to develop the music curriculum in school. Our ukulele band is also going well and the children are enjoying their music sessions so we will be inviting you all back at the end of this half term to see more of the children's amazing work and have a further awards celebration.



We are also pleased to announce that following our Values Education Audit we have been awarded the Enhanced Mark for Values Education. As you are aware this is part of our core beliefs and is so important to us. We are 1 of 22 schools in the whole world who have the Enhanced Mark and it is wonderful to be recognised for all the amazing work that is in place throughout the school. The assessor, Sue Jones commented ***"It was an absolute privilege to spend the day at Stepping Stones School and I unreservedly recommend awarding the school the Enhanced Values-based Education (VbE) Quality Mark. I am astounded by the quality of the relationships and the care and patience shown to all pupils. All staff are so inspirational to see."***

kindness
respect
tolerance
trust
caring
honesty

Our focus Values for the half term are

Week 1—Respect

Week 2— Trust

Week 3—Honesty

Week 4—Kindness

Week 5—Caring

Week 6—Tolerance

Remember to message nominations from home to the class teachers via the home school diary or dojo. Your child will be awarded with a certificate for showing the values at home.

#ACANDOSCHOOL

Key Updates

OUR SCHOOL RULES

We expect our children to

- **Be safe** with words and actions.
- **Be respectful** to everyone and everything.
- **Complete learning** to a high standard.

OUR CORE VALUES

KINDNESS

TOLERANCE

RESPECT

TRUST

In Spring 1st Half we had a high level of incidents where children chose to be aggressive towards staff, this was not out of extreme anger or because they had lost control. In the cases we are reporting on it was choice and because the child(ren) were not getting their own way, or did not like what the adult said! This was extremely concerning and has resulted in us having to use fixed term exclusions from school. We pride ourselves on the successes we have. Our staff team are hard working, dedicated and committed however it is never going to be acceptable to assault staff or other people. Exclusion for us is extremely rare and we do everything we can to prevent it, however we can not accept violence, assaults, spitting at adults etc. We value the support of our parents and carers in working with us to prevent these behaviours.



World Book Day

Thursday 5th March

We will be doing a range of activities in school on World Book Day however **we will not be dressing up this year.** As a school we feel that this event has been heavily commercialised by supermarkets promoting costly costumes. Children do not need a costume to learn about reading and engage with texts. We will be having dressing up sets in school for those children who do want to take part in dressing up through the day. Our focus will be on the series of texts based on the character Supertato.

We will be encouraging the children to;

- Engage in the book exchange—so feel free to send in a text that you are happy to donate.
- Design and make a Supertato book character competition.
- Engage in the activities on offer throughout the day.



Further details will be sent out in a separate letter.

Cycleathon 2020



WOW! What an amazing response from all of our children on Number Day – a HUGE thank you to everyone who took part – even visitors throughout the day wanted to help us cycle the 82 miles – as a result, we managed more than twice the distance - there and back – 197 miles in total!

We are hoping to send off our sponsorship money to the NSPCC at the end of the week – so please could you all send in your sponsorship collections by Friday 6th this week.

Many thanks for your co-operation. Miss Meacham

Positive Points

Pupils can earn up to 100 points per day. These points totals should be reported to parent / carer via the home school diary.

90-100 points	Is a very good day and should be highly praised at home.
85-90	A good day has made some positive choices in learning and behaviour. Is accepting of consequences.
Less than 85	A challenging day a phone call / message in the diary will outline the reasons.

Parental Engagement

We expect our parents / carers to...

- Promote the school values and rules. Implement the value of respect, kindness and trust within your home.
- Respect the teacher decisions.
- Ensure you read newsletters, letters, sign the consent forms.
- Let us know if your child is absent.
- Make sure they are in school and have a high level of attendance. (colds, coughs and sniffles are not excuses for absence)
- Make sure your child is in the correct uniform and that they have a PE kit to change into. Including correct footwear.
- We do not allow items from home to be brought into school e.g. toys, cuddly toys, pencil cases etc. Any sensory/ transitional items a parent feels is required from home needs to be discussed with the Headteacher.
- Watches can be worn as long as they are not a distraction to the child's learning; no jewellery to be worn in school.
- Make sure your child has a healthy lunch. (If they are on packed lunches, no fizzy drinks, chocolate, sweets or fast food)
- Answer the phone when we ring or call back.
- Reiterate the message that hurting, spitting, swearing, assaulting, damaging is not acceptable.
- Sign up to the Parent App and Class Dojo to engage with school and to ensure you receive messages about trips, clothing etc.
- Ensure contact details are all up to date.
- Support the school by talking positively about what we do.
- Pay for the damage that your child causes.
- **If asked** to put in consequences at home, support the school and do this.
- Keep your child off social media, inappropriate games etc.
- Use your social media appropriately and not bring the school into disrepute.
- Talk to us privately about disagreements so it does not undermine the work of the staff.

Reminders



We are using Parent App and this provides an easy way to update contact details. The school office will be requesting updates for contact details. We need to ensure we have 2 numbers minimum that we can make contact with and where possible 3. This is in case of emergencies, but also to make contact with you if your child is absent. It is in line with DFE requirements for Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019. Please send back to school ASAP.

It is vital your child is in school to ensure they make progress. If your child is not in school because of illness / medical appointments you should inform the school office ASAP. If we have no reasons for absence we will be calling by 9:30am when the register closes for further information.

We will continue to monitor attendance on a termly basis and inform you of your child's attendance. If it falls below expectations we will be looking to set improvement targets with you and may involve the attendance support team.

95%	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days	ATTENDANCE MATTERS WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN?
90%	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day	
85%	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days	
80%	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days	

BE SMART BE THERE!
Percentages based on 190 academic days

A Guide to Building...

Healthy Snacks & Lunchbox

Bring WATER everyday!
Putting tap water in a reusable bottle is FREE and will help keep your child hydrated all day!

<p>Whole Grains <small>(Great for Snack or Lunch)</small></p> <p>Make sandwiches with whole grain bread. Look for labels that say "100% Whole Grain!"</p>	<p>Fruit <small>(Great for Snack or Lunch)</small></p> <p>Pack fresh fruit each day for snack and lunch. These are easy, convenient ways to add fruits to your day</p>
<p>Pack healthy snacks each day. Add a healthy sweet or savory treat. Try whole grain crackers and pretzels for savory snacks or dried fruits for sweet treats.</p> <p>Snacks</p>	<p>Add veggies in your child's lunch. They add a healthy crunch instead of chips.</p> <p>Veggies <small>(Great for Snack or Lunch)</small></p>

School Dinners and Packed Lunches

All children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to a free school meal. Mrs Davies will be contacting parents from Y3– Y6 about eligibility.

The meals are provided by Moorside Primary and the children choose a week ahead. Senior Staff lead lunchtimes and monitor the children's eating habits.

We promote a healthy, balanced meal. If a child is on school dinners then they do not need a packed lunch.

A child should have one lunch not go between the two options.

If a child is on a packed lunch then the parent / carer must adhere to providing a balanced healthy lunch box. No fizzy drinks, no chocolate bars / sweets or anything with a high sugar / fat content.



We use Class Dojo app across the school. All the teachers use the app to share success, share work and our children's achievements. Parents can download the app and see their child's profile as well as whole school news.

If you have not signed up yet, please do!

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The standards of uniform last year dropped significantly. We expect every child to be in school uniform and have the agreed plain PE kit.

The expectation is...

Black or grey skirt, shorts or trousers.

White polo or shirt.

Blue Jumper

School Shoes or Black trainers - No heavy boots / shoes.

OR THE CHILD CAN REMAIN IN THEIR MAINSTREAM UNIFORM

