



SLIMBRIDGE

primary school

Newsletter 3—06.10.16

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to the parents, governors and staff that attended the Academy MAT consultation meetings last Thursday. We had a useful discussion about our motivation and the MAT ethos— Everyone Matters. I feel that the main impetus to joining with Rednock at the start of this process, instead of sitting back and waiting, is the opportunity to shape the set up, values and structure of the organisation. I don't want the school to be 'swallowed up' in the future by a large organisation where our voice will not be heard and what we value will not be recognised.

We have now submitted our initial application, which allows us to access support from the Department of Education. This does not mean we will automatically become an Academy, as we are still in the consultation stage, nor is it a forgone conclusion that our application will be accepted. I will keep you informed as we progress.

As many of you are aware our lovely Mrs Clune is expecting her first child, and we wish her and her husband all the best. She will be starting her maternity leave at the end of December and we are currently looking for her replacement. Hopefully someone just as smiley.

We are also looking for a replacement for Miss Murton, although she is only petite she will leave very big shoes to fill. Miss Murton is moving to Gloucester University to train the teachers of the future. Our loss is future children's gain, she will be a much missed member of staff. Again we are recruiting at the moment and I will update you as soon as possible.

Regards Alison Cooke

IMPORTANT DATES.

Friday 7th October— Class 5 Cake Sale

Wednesday 12th October—KSI E safety talk.

Wednesday 19th October—Harvest Festival **1.30pm** at the Church - **non perishable donations to be taken to the Church please**

Thursday 20th October—INSET DAY— Staff attending a Talk for Writing Conference.

Friday 21st October—INSET, staff on Safeguarding training

Thursday 10th November—School Photos (Individuals)

Friday 18th November - Children in Need. **Non-uniform, come as spotty as you like.**

Friday 18th - Children In Need disco — details to follow.

School Improvement Focus for 2016/17

This year we are focusing specifically on;

- Spelling
- Maths Reasoning
- Embedding Talk for Writing
- Behaviour (Good Manners)

We focussed on handwriting last year and we will continue to spend time on this, especially with Years 1, 2 & 3.

Joined handwriting means children can write quickly and fluently. It helps them to get their ideas down on paper more easily and also helps with spelling! Below is a brief description of what we are doing. If you have any questions please have a chat with your child's class teacher....

Reception: In Class 1 the children learn to read and write the letters of the alphabet. They write in a 'printed' style (with exit strokes) and are taught the ways to form the different letter groups.

Years One and Two: The children are being taught 'cursive' writing which helps them once they are ready to join. This means there are entry and exit strokes for all the letters. To start with the children write these letters individually and then, when they are ready, begin to join them together. Often this is just in handwriting lessons and is not yet applied to all class work

Years Three onwards: The children are encouraged to join their letters in all their work. Handwriting practise continues to help children with tricky joins.



Tesco's and Bags of Help.



Please look out for information on how to vote in your local Tesco's store

Dear Parents

At the start of the academic year we spend some time recapping on the essential dos and don'ts of online safety with all children at school. Keeping children safe online is embedded into our PSHCE and Computing curriculums and is frequently revisited throughout the year.

Online safety is EVERYONE'S responsibility and we must all work together to ensure our children stay safe using the internet when at school AND at home.

I had an interesting conversation with children in Year 5 and 6 last week about the different apps and online games which are popular at the moment. The one that seems to be most used amongst our children is YouTube, with many of our children having their own YouTube channels. We had a really mature discussion about how to stay safe and the golden rules of posting things on the internet:

NEVER broadcast your personal details to anyone online

NEVER post photos or videos that could easily identify you - such as wearing a school uniform

NEVER give out email addresses or phone numbers

NEVER arrange to meet anyone you meet online

ALWAYS talk to an adult or teacher if you are worried about anything you see on the internet.

Many children enjoy gaming and we talked about the different games that are popular at the moment.

I would like to again urge parents to review the types of games that your children are playing, many of which contain unnecessary violence, bad language and scenes of a sexual nature.

Miss Randall