



WHERE INDIVIDUALS THRIVE

## Sopley Primary School

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## Newsletter Issue 1 Autumn Term

18th September 2017

# WELCOME

### Dear Parents,

After an INSET training day as a Federation, it was wonderful to open the doors of our school and welcome all the children back. We would especially like to welcome our new Reception children who have eagerly joined us as well as children in other years.

We are really proud of how our new Reception Rabbits children have settled in at Sopley. They have been very busy this week playing with their peers and exploring their classroom and around the school. We have enjoyed hearing how excited the children are to come in to school each day and really proud to receive such fantastic feedback from our new parents about the behaviour of the pupils around the school.

The teachers have been very busy during the holidays preparing classrooms for the children's return: arranging the learning environment; putting up attractive and stimulating displays; as well as moving the school around - all ready for a positive start to the year.

It has been a delight to see all the children returning to school with enthusiasm and settling into their new classes. It is particularly exciting for children in Owls Class who have a brand new classroom for their learning!

We would like to officially welcome Miss Pilkington, our new Year 1 and 2 teacher. We are very lucky to have her at Sopley and know that she is enjoying getting to know our school and the children who make it so special.

We are also enjoying getting to know everyone at Sopley. If we haven't met you yet, please do introduce yourselves when you have the opportunity. We look forward to working with you and your children.

Elizabeth Knowles and Andrea Hodgson

### School Gates

Thank you for your comments regarding the school gates. As an interim arrangement whilst we are finalising entry plans, we are unlocking the field gate on Thatcher's Lane and the gate in the school car park at 8.30am. Children entering via the school car park MUST be escorted to the gate by an adult. Please ensure you remain with your children until 8.45am when they will be allowed into the school building and will be supervised. **In order to ensure your children's safety, we will be locking the school gates during the day. Gates will open again at 3.10pm and be locked again at 3.30pm each day.** We thank you for your patience and co-operation in this matter.

### Cancer Research UK's Race for Life

We would like to say a huge 'THANK YOU' to all involved in the Race for Life event during the summer term. The children raised a staggering £2200 for this fantastic cause which is a great achievement. We even made it into the 'Ringwood and Fordingbridge News'!



### Thank you and Health and Safety

The FSS have purchased some superb new play equipment on the field for the children to enjoy at playtimes. It would be appreciated if you could remind your children that they should not be on the play equipment before or after school. We are not covered by insurance and children are not supervised by staff members at these times. Thank you for your help in enforcing this.



## Mud Kitchen

A big THANK YOU to Mrs Knowles' husband for building and donating a fabulous mud kitchen for Rabbits Class. The children are thoroughly enjoying their new learning area and we are sure you'll agree it's a wonderful new addition. Mud pies anyone?



## TERM DATES 2017/2018

Half Term Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct - Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Oct

**Inset Day Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Oct**

Christmas Holiday Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec - Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan

Half Term Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Feb - Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Inset Day Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Easter Holidays Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Mar - Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Apr

May Half Term Mon 28<sup>th</sup> May - Fri 1<sup>st</sup>

**Inset Day Mon 4<sup>th</sup> June**

**Inset Day Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

Summer Holiday starts Tues 24<sup>th</sup> July



## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

**Monday:**

AFC Bournemouth Football 3.20-4.30pm

**Tuesday:**

Choir 3.20-4.30pm

**Friday:**

Street Dance 3.20-4.30pm



## ATTENDANCE

School attendance is subject to various education laws and is very important that you make sure your child attends regularly. For each child to reach their full educational achievement a high level of school attendance is essential.

**Good attendance is important because:**

- Statistics show a direct link between underachievement and absence below 95%,
- Regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically,
- Regular attenders find school routines, school learning and friendships easier to cope with,
- Regular attenders find learning more satisfying,
- Regular attenders are more successful in transferring between primary school, secondary school and higher education, employment or training.

For our children to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered it is vital your child is at school, on time, every day the school is open unless absence is unavoidable.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you are eligible, it is really important that you register, even if your child doesn't have school dinners or is an infant child who is already in receipt of Universal free school meals.

The school gets **additional funding** for every child registered **before 1<sup>st</sup> October** so the school, and your child, will benefit. If you think you may be eligible, please register online via <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hc3s/freeschoolmeals.htm> or contact the school office who can run a check on your behalf.

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## CLOTHING

As the weather is getting colder, may we remind parents that all children should have coats in school.

**Rabbits Class** children also need wellies to be left at school please.

Thank you!



## Calling all parents of under fives – 30 hours free childcare

Parents can now check if they are eligible for the Government's 30 hours free childcare for their three and four year olds by using the online childcare calculator at [www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator](http://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator)

From September 2017 parents will be entitled to a maximum of 1140 hours of free childcare, which doubles the existing 570 hours currently available to all three and four year olds. This could save working parents up to 5000 a year. To confirm eligibility parents will need to submit an online application via the Childcare Choices website: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk). They will receive a reference code which will need to be given to their registered childcare provider. The childcare provider will validate the code with the local authority and confirm eligibility. If authorised, parents will then be able discuss when the free hours of childcare can begin with their childcare provider.

Tax-Free Childcare: Parents can now check to see if they are eligible to receive up to 20% of financial help towards childcare costs from the Government through the Tax-Free Childcare scheme. This could help towards additional hours not covered by free entitlements; before and after school childcare and holiday childcare. For an explanation of the eligibility criteria and for more details on all Government schemes offering childcare support, visit the Childcare Choices website at, [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)