



MOSS LANE SCHOOL

Value of the month
December:

Appreciation



16th December 2016
Autumn 6

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the last newsletter of the Autumn term. We do hope that you have all enjoyed the last few weeks of festive activities. The preparations for Christmas are always such a special time in School and the plays, parties, Christmas lunch and making Christingles provided the perfect opportunity for you all to come together and celebrate with us.



It has been a wonderful term of learning. Everyone has tried their best to fulfill their full potential, and the children have really enjoyed this term's topics and have discovered all sorts of things they didn't know before.

A big thank you to all the staff for their dedication to the progress of the children; my drop-ins and observations this term have shown a high percentage of good /outstanding teaching, with children being well supported and moving on in their learning.

Many thanks must also go to the Governors and to the PTA for all their support this term.

The staff and governors of Moss Lane School would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Kind regards
Mrs Abbott



This week at Moss Lane...



Mini Market

As always the Mini-Market was an enormous success and everyone had a fantastic afternoon. A big thank you to the PTA for coordinating and supporting this extremely popular and exciting event!!

Christmas Lunch

The children enjoyed a delicious festive lunch with crackers and Christmas music served to them by the staff and Governors.

Singing at Jubilee House and Eastlake Care Homes

Every Year a group of Year 2 children sing at Jubilee House and Eastlake residential. This week they visited Jubilee House and sang their favourite Christmas songs which put a smile on the resident's faces. The children always enjoy going out in our local community and have been praised for their excellent behaviour and manners.

Singing Events

Thank you to all the families who brought their children along to sing at the Pepperpot over the last few weekends. They all sung beautifully and lit up a very



This week at Moss Lane...

It's been very busy and very Christmassy all over the school for the past few weeks. We have been doing lots of rehearsing for our plays, both in Reception and Key Stage 1. We have also been busy making Christmas cards and doing lots of other challenges.



Moss Lane Christmas Performances



The Reception and Key Stage 1 nativity plays were a great success. All the children were very engaged and I felt very proud of their performances. We have had so much positive feedback from family and friends. Thank-you for all your support. It was wonderful to see the hall and church packed out with so many friendly faces.



Christmas Parties

The children will be having Christmas parties on the afternoon of Tuesday 20th December. The children are allowed to wear their party clothes during the afternoon. If your child would like to bring party clothes please could they bring them to school in a named bag. They will then get changed into their clothes after lunch

Christmas Post Box



Our Christmas post box is now out in the corridor outside Otters class. Please ensure that all cards have the child's full name and class on the front of the envelopes. Year 2 children then deliver the cards to each class.

Lost Property

There is a lot of unnamed clothing in the 'Lost Property' boxes outside Squirrels. If your child has lost any items of clothing this term, please come and look through the box. Any clothing left in the box at the end of term will be resold as second hand uniform or donated to charity! To ensure that your child's clothing can be returned to them, please make sure any clothing brought into school is clearly labelled, and check on a regular basis, that the name is still readable. When you take your child's PE bags home to wash this holiday, please check that you don't have anyone else's clothing!

Thank you

This term has sped by and I would like to thank our marvellous group of student volunteers that come in to school each week to help with reading, maths games, art and so much more. The children love working with you and we are always very grateful for your time and commitment. Also I would like to thank the PTA who run some wonderful events and raise the school so much money. Thank you for your dedication!

Are you worrying about putting food on the table?

If you ever need help with putting food on the table due to a family crisis, please pop in and speak to Mrs Abbott. Alternatively you can contact Karen Sutton (our Home School Link Worker) or pop into the Citizens Advice Bureau or local church and they will offer help. All these agencies can give you short term access to the local food banks. Please don't worry about asking - we are all here to help.



Nut free zone

Please can we remind parents the school is a nut free zone, and packed lunches should not include any nut produces, for example peanut butter and Nutella.



Library

Our school books are really important to our school and children. Throughout the year many books are lost or simply not returned. These books are very expensive to replace so could you join our book amnesty and return any books that you find at home.

A warm welcome

In January we welcome Mrs Cook who will be working in Panda Bears class alongside miss Cox for 3 days a week till the end of the summer term.

I would also like to welcome two new governors to Moss Lane. They are Aaron Twaits who has Freddie in Panda Bears class and Adam Boshoff who is the father of Grace in Foxes .



Emergency School Closures

Although we have had a very mild winter so far, I thought it would be timely to remind everyone of the emergency school closure procedures. Our expectation is that the school will, as far as possible, always remain open. In bad weather, it is only when staff are unable to get to work and the safety of the children is thus compromised, or if we have a heating failure or serious loss of power that the school might consider closure . Please remember to tell us if you have changed your phone number and/or e-mail address. If the school is to be closed, we will endeavour to send a text message and/or email out to you as early as possible - power and network permitting. We will also endeavour to post a message on the school website and you can also check the Surrey County Council website for school closures. Listen to either Eagle Radio 96.4 or BBC Surrey Radio 104.6 for closure information .

YR/Y3 September 2017

Don't forget that applications for a school place for September 2017 for YR and Y3 are now open. Applications can be made online at <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>

The deadline for applications is 15th January 2017.

Fostering in Surrey

You may be interested to know that there are over 880 children in care in Surrey. Around 40% of them are placed outside of Surrey because we haven't got enough foster carers. We are looking for foster carers for children aged 0-18, for supported lodgings providers for young people aged 16-21, and Short Breaks carers for disabled children. Whether you are married or single, male or female, are straight or gay, do or don't have your own children, rent or own your home, work or don't work, we would love to hear from you. Meet our foster carers at cafes around Surrey. You might enjoy having an informal chat with foster carers about what it's like to foster with us. We are very grateful to the cafes that have agreed to let our foster carers have a table on a monthly basis at the following: All Things Nice in Ewell, Leatherhead Youth Project in Leatherhead, Hothouse Cafe in Cobham, Bread and Roses in Addlestone, Bill's in Woking, Patisserie Valerie in Camberley, and West Central in Redhill, with more venues to come. To find out the dates and times, please visit <http://bit.ly/2d9zjpc>. You can simply drop in to the cafes at any point during the advertised times to chat with the foster carers. Book a home visit to chat to us about fostering. Why not give our friendly Fran a call on 0800 0969 626#

or email fostering.recruitment@surreycc.gov.uk to book a home visit? We can book a time that suits you on Monday to Friday, between 9am and 9pm. There's no obligation to take your enquiry further if you decide after talking to us that fostering isn't for you at this time. Meet us at the Ripley Village Christmas Fair 4 December 12-4pm. We will be at the Ripley Christmas Fair in the High Street, Ripley Village GU23 6AY. There will be lots of stalls and Santa's on motorbikes riding through, so something to entertain everyone. Look out for the white gazebo with purple cartoon animals and lots of balloons. Come and make a Christmas tree decoration and a Christmas hat while you chat to us about fostering.

Waverley Safer Neighbourhoods Team

On the fifteenth day of Candlelight, PC Chris Skillicorn-Aston said to me 'Fit a mains or battery powered alarm on your shed.' On the sixteenth day of Candlelight, PC Ian Heaphy said to me 'If possible, secure lawnmowers, bicycles and other valuable items to a shed or garage wall.' On the seventeenth day of Candlelight, PCSO Teresa Matthews said to me 'If you are going away, give a trusted friend or neighbour contact details in case of emergency. Also give them the contact numbers for police - 101 for non-emergencies, and 999 for emergencies only.' On the eighteenth day of Candlelight, PCSO Trevor Ward said to me 'When travelling, don't display your home address on luggage tags.' On the nineteenth day of Candlelight, PCSO Steve Baldwin said to me 'If you are already very organised and have started your Christmas shopping, don't leave the presents on display.' On the twentieth day of Candlelight, PC Huw Miles said to me 'Register any valuable Christmas presents on www.immobilise.com - it's FREE and will improve your chances of getting lost or stolen items back.' On the twenty-first day of Candlelight, PC Mike Patey said to me 'Once Christmas presents have been opened, dispose of the boxes/packaging - don't leave it on view for potential thieves to see what's on offer.'

CONCERNS OVER VIDEO GAMES

When parents want to buy appropriate [video games](#) for their children, it can be a frustrating experience. There are many games out there that may look like they are aimed at young kids, but they are really better for older children or teenagers. Parents can take a few steps to ensure that they are buying the right games for their system, games that their children can play easily and understand, and games which are not too violent or inappropriate for younger children.

Video games are a booming business, and almost every family has at least one gaming console, if not more, as well as handheld consoles for keeping children entertained while travelling. Children of all ages love engaging in games, and some games can keep kids entertained while teaching them too. Video games can help improve children's hand-eye coordination and teach them a bit about healthy competition too.

Some parents have expressed a concern that their children are playing unsuitable video games when visiting friends' houses, and we would ask that parents restrict access to violent games and films. If video games has an rating 15+ or 18+ sign it is not about the difficulty of the game but that it is not suitable for any persons under the age of 15+ or 18+. Research shows that such games can have detrimental effects on developing minds and do not help children learn the values we are trying to instil. So please check when buying games for Christmas for your child that they are suitable. Thank you for your support regarding this matter.

Online Safety

Each half term the children are learning about online safety and the importance of staying safe online. Do talk to your children about what they have been learning in class. It is also worth reviewing your parental controls on your electronic devices to ensure your child can only access age appropriate content.





Lateness and Absence

Morning Procedures Classrooms doors open at 8:50am for dropping off the children, and children must be in their classrooms and ready for lessons to start at 9am. All parents should have left school premises by 9am please, or have signed in at the school office if they are staying for any reason. If you arrive at school at 9am or later, you must bring your child to the school office so that they can be marked into the register by the office. All lateness is recorded and monitored by the Educational Welfare Officer. If you know you are going to be late for school, it is helpful if you ring school at the earliest opportunity to let them know the situation. If your child is absent from school for any reason, please telephone the school office before 9:30am. We also ask that you provide a letter to their teacher explain their absence on their return to school. (Please always phone the office with any time critical messages such as absence or collection arrangements as we cannot guarantee to read emails at the necessary time.)

Why it is important to be in school on time— Punctuality is linked with good attendance and forms good habits for your child's future. If your child misses the start of the school day, they will miss work and vital time with the class teacher. Important information about the day ahead is often shared with the class in the mornings. Your child may also miss the opportunity to socialise with their friends before settling down to a day of learning. Children arriving late into school often disrupt lessons, which can be embarrassing and upsetting for the child.

Top Tips for parents

- Pack school bags the night before
- Ensure your child has a good bedtime routine so they get plenty of rest and don't struggle to get out of bed in the mornings
- Make time for breakfast before leaving for school
- Aim to get to school 10 minutes before the bell goes
- Invest in a reliable alarm clock
- Contact school if there any issues impacting on your ability to get your child to school on time
- Have a back-up plan in place for getting your child to school: ask friends or family if they can help out in emergencies





Dates for your diary - Autumn term 2016

December

Tuesday 20th

Christingle making (am)

Christmas parties (pm)

Wednesday 21st

Last day of Autumn Term

Children break up at 1.30pm

January

Tuesday 3rd

Back to school!

The first day back after the Christmas Holidays is
Tuesday 3rd January 2017

School Term and Holidays dates 2016/2017

The **Spring Term** 2017 starts on Tuesday 3rd January and ends Friday 31st March with half term from Monday 13th February to Friday 19th February.

The **Summer Term** 2017 starts on Tuesday 18th April to Friday 21st July with half term from Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June

INSET DATES

February 10th 2017

April 18th 2017

June 5th 2017