

Staplehurst School



NEWSLETTER

School Improvement Plan 2015-2016

REVIEW

Raise attainment of all pupils especially in Reading and Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling (GPS)

REFLECT

Improve communication with parents and increase parental involvement

ACTION

IMPACT

Promote personal development and welfare of all pupils

Staplehurst School is an inclusive community and we do not tolerate bullying – race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or age.

SCHOOL NEWS

RECEPTION CLASSES

This has been the first week of school for our new Reception classes. They have all settled in extremely well and we hope that they will be very happy during their time with us. Pictures to follow next week once we have received all the Digital Images, Video and Media Agreements from all parents

WILLOW SCULPTURES

We were very lucky to have a sculptor come into school this week to work with the children to create willow sculptures of animal characters from Roald Dahl books. Years 1-6 took part and all had great fun. This event was completed funded by our wonderful PTA.



CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Mr Littleton whose wife had a baby girl on Sunday 4 September.

ROALD DAHL DRESS UP

Today children in Years 1-6 were invited to dress up as a character from one of Roald Dahl's books to celebrate his 100th birthday. There was a fun atmosphere and the children all enjoyed the experience. There will be pictures and more information next week.

ATTENDANCE

The Department for Education's target for attendance is 96%. We always strive for 100%.

Whole school attendance

For week beginning 5 September was 97.42%.

Class attendance

Special congratulations to 6T Tigers who achieved a fantastic 100% attendance.

GROUNDS VOLUNTEERS

During the summer holiday the wonderful volunteers from Medway Valley Countryside Partnership returned to do some more work on the school grounds.

As you can see from the photos, they built a lovely bench around one of our plane trees, where the children can sit in the shade or have some quiet time. They also built and put up a new birdhouse and checked the old ones to discover that some blue tits had nested during the Spring Term.

The team has previously provided us with a much-used outdoor classroom which has benches and a blackboard. They also tidied up the pond area which was used by many year groups for pond-dipping sessions.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

We are planning a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and our catering company, The Contract Dining Company, have very kindly agreed to donate all the refreshments for this event. This means all the money raised will go to Macmillan. More information to follow.

ONLINE SAFETY

Do you know what your child is doing online? Do you understand the different social media, apps and games that young people use? From Instagram and Snapchat to ooVoo and Tumblr, Net Aware is a simple no-nonsense guide for parents and teachers from the NSPCC and O2. Parents can sign up to a newsletter and receive updates on the newest sites and apps to be aware of at net-aware.org.uk.

Within school, Mrs Murray has lead responsibility for online safety as part of her safeguarding role. If you have any concerns or wish to discuss anything, please feel free to come and see her.

ASSEMBLY ROTA

Date	KS1 Assembly 9am	KS2 Assembly 2.45
Friday 23 Sep	Year 1	Year 5
Friday 30 Sep	Year 2	Year 4
Friday 7 Oct	Year 1	Year 3
Friday 14 Oct	Year 2	Year 6
Friday 21 Oct	Year 5	Year 1

MUSIC LESSONS

We were very lucky, this week, to welcome Andrew Parry and his colleagues to the Key Stage Two assembly. They demonstrated the flute, clarinet, saxophone, guitar, piano and drum kit. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and lots are keen to have lessons. If you are interested in your child having lessons (which take place in school time), please see the attached document for more information. If you have any queries please speak to Mrs Hein.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We are finalising the Clubs List and this will be sent home next week.

The Lucy Robins School of Dance lessons will recommence on Monday 19 September. There are still some spaces available so please do pop along and speak with them if your child is interested in attending.

Please note some school-led after school sports clubs may be cancelled at short notice due to bad weather. This is because fee paying clubs, e.g. Premier Sport take priority. If we need to cancel a club we will send a text message.

SCHOOL DINNER ROTA

w/c 19/09/16 Years 5, 6, 3, 4
w/c 26/09/16 Years 6, 3, 4, 5

MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

If your child requires medication during the school day please ensure medicine is handed into the office and forms need to be completed.

YR 6 SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

You can apply for a place online at <https://ola.kent.gov.uk> or paper application forms are available from the school office.

The national closing date is **Monday 31 October 2016** but Kent's final closing date is **Tuesday 1 November 2016**. This is to allow parents extra time to consider options following the Kent Test (11+) results.

The National Offer Day is **Wednesday 1 March 2017**. Emails are sent after **4pm** and letters are sent **1st class**.

Places should be accepted or declined by **Friday 17 March 2017**.

SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN SESSIONS

There is a list, in Reception, of the dates for the various secondary schools' open events.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Please may we remind you that younger siblings are NOT permitted to use the play equipment whilst waiting for the children to come out of school. The equipment is age-appropriate for the pupils who use those playgrounds and is therefore unsuitable for younger children.

We have also noticed that some children are riding their bikes and scooters on school premises. Please may we ask that they do not do this as drop-off and pick-up times are very busy and we would not like anyone to be injured. Thank you for your co-operation.

MIDDAY SUPERVISOR VACANCIES

Due to internal staff changes we currently have vacancies for Midday Supervisors. The vacancies may suit someone who has been, or would be interested in becoming, first aid trained. If you are interested in joining our hardworking team of lovely ladies, please contact Andrea Baker in the office to discuss.

SCHOOL PICK UP FORMS

If you have not yet completed the form providing information about who may pick up your child from school, please pop in to or call the office. Children in Years 5 and 6 are allowed to walk home or meet parents at an agreed collection point. Children in Years R to 4 must be collected from the classroom door.

PAYMENTS

Please may we remind you that any cash/cheque payments sent into school must be in a sealed envelope with the **child's name, class, amount** and **what the payment is for** written clearly on the envelope. Thank you.

SCHOOL NURSING

The School Health Service continues to offer support and advice about a range of issues including bed-wetting, healthy lifestyles and behaviour. To contact School Nursing, telephone 01622 226061 or email kcht.maidstoneschoolnurses@nhs.net.

PTA NEWS

PTA AGM

The next PTA meeting and AGM will be on Tuesday 4th October 7pm.

NEXT EVENT

Pamper Night on 11 November, 7:30 - 10pm. If you are interested in having a stall at our Pamper Night then please contact Jo Kerley on 01580 890543 or email staplehurstschoolpta@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CHARITY CONCERT

The Staplehurst Community Choir together with Insieme (an opera duo) are holding a Charity Concert this Saturday 17 September, 7.30pm at the Stile Bridge. All money raised will go to St Michaels Hospice and Chapel Lane Pre-school. Please call 01622 831236 to book tickets.

STAPLEHURST UNDER5's PLAYGROUP

On Monday 19 September Staplehurst Under 5's are holding an Open Morning from 9.30 to 11am. This will be an opportunity for current and prospective parents to come and experience all the wonderful activities they offer. Refreshments will be available.

CHAPEL LANE PRE-SCHOOL

Chapel Lane Pre-school is now open Mondays and Fridays 9am-12 noon and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9am-3pm. Spaces are still available. Open Afternoon, Wednesday 28th September, 1pm to 2.30pm. To receive more information about Chapel Lane Pre-school please go to www.chapellanepreschool.org.uk or to book a place, please telephone Sally on 01580 892807 or email chapel.lane@hotmail.com.

THE LEARNING TREE

Staplehurst and Sissinghurst have spaces available. They are open every morning and some afternoons. Contact Anna Reiss on 01797 260843 or 07870 213952 or email annalearningtree@btinternet.com.

STAPLEHURST MODEL RAILWAY EVENT

The Staplehurst Model Railway Event is being held at the Village Hall on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 September. They are still in need of some help so why not pop along and offer your services?

STOLEN OR MISSING OWLS

During the early hours of 15 September a house in Cranbrook was broken into and the intruder opened up various animal cages. Two owls, one white and one grey, are now missing. These owls are very nervous and should not be approached. Should you see an owl that could be one of the missing birds, please contact Nicky Edwards on either 07880 388915 or 07557 412954.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 4 October

PTA Meeting 7pm

Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October

Half Term

Wednesday 2 November

Individual and family photographs (Staplehurst School children only)

WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

Andrew Parry Music

ADMIN

Online payments

This is the preferred method. Please pay online for School Dinners, Breakfast Club, Trips, Swimming, Uniform and Equipment.

Dinner Money queries and payments

Please contact Maxine on 07501 007835.

School Uniform

Uniform can be ordered and paid for online (orders will be sent home with your child). The Uniform Shop is open anytime, but **please avoid Monday mornings and Friday afternoons**. Thank you.