



STAPLEHURST SCHOOL

Headteacher
Mrs C. Farthing

Gybbon Rise, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0LZ
Tel: 01580 891765 Fax: 01580 891291
e-mail: headteacher@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk
office@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk
www.staplehurstschool.co.uk

16 December 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of term is swiftly approaching and the children are very excited to be breaking up for Christmas!

Thank you to parents for supporting our end of term EYrs/KS1 Christmas Play (which was amazing) and I would also like to thank, in advance, those parents who will be attending the KS2 concert on Friday – I know the Church will be full to the brim and, like me, you will be really looking forward to hearing the children sing!

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work this term in enabling the festive season to be a memorable one for the children and parents.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Since our Ofsted Inspection in June we have continued with our high quality, professional training for staff and now are ready to develop teaching and learning further which will enable us to improve the outcomes for all our children – we must aim high!

I have visited a number of outstanding schools in Kent and scrutinised their standards in education, my research has finally led me beyond Kent, to Greenwich, which has a high number of successful schools. As a result of this, we have decided to link with Deansfield Primary School (graded 'outstanding in summer 2015) where Mr John Camp is the Executive Headteacher. He has visited Staplehurst with a colleague and their initial impressions have been discussed with me, following this our leaders are to visit Deansfield where they will receive on-site leadership training whilst the school is in action.

We are very excited about this strategy because it has a proven track record of raising attainment. We are not allowing ourselves to be complacent and will strive for the best we can achieve.

ASSESSMENTS

Staff have updated pupil assessments on Target Tracker (internal progress tracking system) and, following feedback from parents about clearer communication, we will be releasing progress information in a more readable format in January. We are also reviewing the regularity of our Parent Consultations; we have decided to hold our next evenings on **20 and 21 January instead of the later February date**. Following this there will be an additional consultation – these new dates will be emailed at the start of the new term. We apologise for changing these sessions but it is the result of constantly reviewing and revising our practices to ensure we communicate effectively.

STAFF CHANGES

I would like to inform you Miss Wrightson has resigned her post with a view to possibly relocating in the near future, she will therefore not be returning in January.

Miss Wrightson was appointed in 2013 as Inclusion Manager (but in 2003 as a teacher) and has worked tirelessly to improve the outcomes for children; she has improved the administration of SEN within school and undoubtedly impressed the Ofsted team who carried out our inspection in June 2015. Miss Wrightson will be missed and I am sure you will join me in wishing her well in 2016.

We have advertised the post of Inclusion Manager and are hoping to appoint as soon as possible, meanwhile I shall oversee any of Miss Wrightson's responsibilities with the help of Mrs Laming and other staff.

If you should experience any concerns the please contact your child's class teacher or me at headteacher@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk.

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Adams who has made the decision to utilise her skills further afield as a freelance computing consultant and already has many projects planned, such as running workshops for children in Maidstone during school holidays. Mrs Adams has made a significant contribution to the computing curriculum in school and has provided tremendous technical support for the staff; I know the children will miss her as much as the staff.

We have advertised this post and meanwhile have sourced another experienced technician who has worked for KCC and is willing to assist us for the foreseeable future.



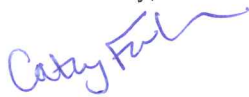
PTA and GOVERNORS

Our weekly Newsletter show cases the many activities which take place in school on a regular basis but I would like to take the opportunity to thank our fantastic PTA who meets in school, often on cold winter nights, to discuss how they can raise funds for much needed items throughout the year. They are a tremendous, loyal group of people who deserve praise and thanks from all of us.

Our Governing Body, also, are a volunteer work force who give up their time and energy to improve the education of our children; they are a most professional group who challenge and support the school leadership at all times; we are most appreciative.

FINALLY, WE HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!!!

Yours sincerely,



Cathy Farthing
Headteacher