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September 9<sup>th</sup> 2015

Issue No: 65

## Quality, Creativity, Consistency, Collaboration



*Mosaic completed at the end of last term by Y and 6 and teaches who have visited Nkhungu, our linked school in Tanzania.*

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Academic Year- I have seen most of you in the playground- but to those who I haven't seen yet, welcome back!

I really hope that you had a restful summer break- even if it was cold, wet and rainy most of the time.

This is the first newsletter of this academic term- as always there is an awful lot of important information in it. Please keep it somewhere safe until you get the next one in a few weeks' time.

Best wishes

## Home: School agreements

You will have received Home School agreements in July - these need to be returned by **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September**. This document is very important- it sets out what you and your child can expect from the school, but also what the school can expect from you. It is a **statutory requirement of the Department for Education** (guidance given in March 2013) that all parents and carers should sign and return this document.

If we do not receive this document back from you we will contact you individually. Translated copies of the letter are available from the school in the main home languages of our families.

If you require further information regarding these agreements then please do not hesitate in speaking to your class teacher or to a member of the Senior Leadership Team (who are always in the playground at the beginning and end of the school day).

## Class Teacher Information

As you may remember from the end of last year, we have three new teachers joining us this term; Charlotte Hamilton- N, Emma Munbodhowa- R, and Ruth Oliver- Y5. We also need to welcome Neil Gilchrist Y1 and Marcia Thomas who have joined us this term. I know that you will make them all feel very welcome when you meet them. We are very lucky at Sunnyhill to have the committed, hard- working and creative team of staff that we have!

## Information sharing

We need to work with you in partnership if our children are going to have the best experiences possible, and clear communication is key to this. Important information will be sent to parents in Head Teacher newsletters every few weeks. Attached to this newsletter are the dates for the entire year- please keep this somewhere safe. Class teachers will be sending out newsletters this week (11<sup>th</sup> September) to let you know what is being studied in class, how you can support your children at home and the important dates and routines for this term that you need to be aware of and prepare your children for. Please check book bags next week to make sure that you receive your copy! If newsletters don't make it home they are available from the office- or alternatively on the school website.

If you need something clarified or are concerned about something that your child shares with you about school then sensibly the first port of call for someone to speak to is your child's class teacher. However please don't try to share in-depth information with class teachers when they are bringing children in from the playground at the start of the day. If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher, make an appointment to see them either directly or by making an appointment through the office.

We have also timetabled an informal drop in session for you to meet your child's class teacher after school on 17<sup>th</sup> September- more information regarding this is to follow towards the end of this week.

If you need to speak to a senior teacher about a query or concern then you can also make an appointment to see one of our phase leaders:

- Irene Martin- Children's Centre, Nursery and Reception
- Michael Holland- Year 1,2 and 3
- Robert Schweier- Year 4, 5 and 6

If you would like to speak to someone about anything to do with Special Needs support then please make an appointment to see Rosie Smith (our SEN and Disability Co-ordinator).

## Mobile phones

We need to remind parents and carers that we are a mobile free zone. This school policy is related to our safeguarding procedures; we need to make sure that all of our children are safe on the school site, that no one has the opportunity to take photos or film our children which then could be shared on the internet or with other parties. Please do not use your phone when you are in the playground or in the school building. Posters will be up around the school to remind you of this- and staff will politely remind you of this ruling if you forget. Please finish (or start) you conversations outside of the school gate.

### External test results

We shared our external test results for the school in the last newsletter of last term, but just in case you missed them, here they are again - these are some of the best we have ever had!

Year 1	Phonics test - 77%
Year 2	KS1 SATS tests Reading Level 2+- 83% (Level 2b+- 58%) Writing Level 2+- 84% (Level 2b+- 56%) Maths Level 2+- 87% (Level 2b+- 63%)
Year 6	KS2 SATS tests Reading Level 4+- 96% (Level5+-37%) Spelling, grammar and punctuation Level 4+- 92% (Level5+-54%) Maths Level 4+- 90% (Level5+- 36%)

Well done to all of the children and teachers who have worked so hard to achieve these results. We are very proud of you!

### Important Dates

September	October	November	December
1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup> : INSET days 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Start of the Autumn term for Y1-6 7 <sup>th</sup> - New R children start date (am only) 11 <sup>th</sup> – School Journey (Y5 and 6 group) 14 <sup>th</sup> - Existing N children to start 14 <sup>th</sup> - R children to start full time <b>17<sup>th</sup>- Open House Parents' event (3.30-5.45)</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup>: Half term holiday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup>: Start of new half term</b> <b>24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> : Parents' evenings</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup>: KS1 Winter performance (10.30 and 1.30)</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup>: Exhibition of Learning (8.30- 9.00, 3.15- 5.45)</b> <b>14<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>: Class parties</b> <b>19<sup>th</sup>: End of Autumn Term (2pm)</b>  <b>Spring Term</b> January 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> : INSET 6 <sup>th</sup> : Term starts

These are the main important dates that have already been diarised for next term- particularly noteworthy ones are highlighted in **blue**. Also, attached to this letter are important dates for the whole of next year. Please keep this information safe. It is accurate at the time of publication but is subject to change- please cross reference it with newsletters you receive throughout the year. To help parents plan for events we have included timings wherever possible and will continue to do so on all newsletters sent out in the future.

The Open House event for parents in Y6 Rife and Y1 Eden has had to be re-scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> September (as Miss Rankin and Mrs Wilkinson are both accompanying children from Y6 and Y5 on school journey on 11<sup>th</sup> September).

### Uniform

99.9% of the children looked very smart on their first day, and this has continued (mostly)! Our uniform is a bright blue jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan, white t-shirt, shirt or polo shirt, dark trousers, skirts or tracksuit bottoms. Children also need a school PE kit made up of a white t-shirt, dark shorts or track suit bottoms, and black pumps or trainers, a PE bag and a book bag. All required items of uniform are available from 'Wearabouts' (West Norwood) and 'Schoolwear United' (Crown Point). We do have spare clean sweatshirts in school and will be asking those without uniform to put these on if they come to school dressed incorrectly.

### School Dinners

School meals for children in Reception to Year 2 are free. The price of school dinners for all other children is £2.00 per day (£10.00 per week). The majority of parents now are using the on line payment system for school dinners- if you require information regarding this then please come in and speak to Julie Tyson (Office Manager) or a member of her team. In an emergency, please make sure that dinner money is handed into the office at the start of each week, in an envelope with your child's first and surname and class name written on it; remember that school meals accounts must be kept in credit at all times and we can only give an allowance of one meal if they haven't paid. No additional credit can be given other than one

meal. The office will warn you of when you are reaching no credit- if you do fall behind with payments then the school will provide your child with toast and fruit for their lunch until money becomes available.

### Breakfast Club

Fees for breakfast club are £2 per day (the school makes no money out of these charges- this charge does not cover the cost of the staff who supervise the children before school). The Breakfast Club has been really popular and is now completely full. We do not have the capacity to accept children into breakfast club without places being booked in advance- if you would like your child to attend then the office keeps a waiting list for children. Spaces will be allocated to children on the waiting list if they become available.

### After School Clubs

This term's teacher led after school clubs have not started yet. Class teachers will be sending letters out by pupil post over the next week for you to apply for places- please do not assume that your child has a place until a teacher has contacted you.

### Attendance and Punctuality

You may remember from the end of last term that we almost reached our attendance target of 96% (95.8% was our final figure- we were so close!)

**Our attendance target for this academic year is going to remain at 96%.** As a parent/carer you can help us achieve this by:

- **Telling your child how important school is ;**
- **Praising your child's achievements and celebrating their success;**
- **Organising non-urgent medical appointments after school;**
- **Helping your child get into a routine at breakfast and bedtime;**
- **Encourage healthy eating and exercise to boost your child's immune system;**
- **Encourage your child to prepare their school uniform ready for school the night before;**
- **Organising your child's equipment (or getting them into the routine of laying everything out) the night before they're needed (E.G. Book bag and PE kit);**
- **Taking time to talk to your child about what they have done in school – showing that you are interested and what they do at school does matter!**

We need your support to smash our target this year!

It is really important that children are on time for the start of the school day, which is your responsibility as parents. The bell is rung at 8.55 every morning, with gates being opened for those not attending breakfast club at 8.40. Children need to be lined up ready to go into class when the bell is rung every morning; if they are not, then they are late.

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school, the office needs to be called on the first day of absence. If we do not hear from you then you will be called by the school. A written note needs to be sent in with your child on the first day that they return to school explaining the reason for their absence. Please remember if your child's attendance is below 95% you will need to provide evidence to support any additional school days they miss. Without evidence absence will be classified as unauthorised.

We cannot give permission for any extended holidays during term time. Any family that takes a holiday could be fined by the Local Authority. If the school has any worries concerning lateness or attendance, then you will be asked to come in to meet with us at the earliest opportunity to discuss the matter.

